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A HANDBOOK

OF

WEATHER FOLK-LORE

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BEING

A COLLECTION OF PROVERBIAL SAYINGS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES RELATING TO THE WEATHER, WITH EXPLANATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES

c 8426

BY THE

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VICAR OF HIGH HURST WOOD

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
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PREFACE.

IT is well known that certain days have been, in various countries, considered as ominous of the ensuing weather. The popular sayings attached to them are of great antiquity, and therefore the alteration of the Calendar has affected them in a material degree; yet still do the peasantry of the Continent consult religiously their critical days; and if a 'Volks-kalender' of Germany, Switzerland, or Bohemia were to discontinue giving its "Bauern-" or "Wetter-regelen," there is no doubt that its circulation would be sensibly diminished. So, too, in our own land, each district has its weather proverbs, some peculiar to itself, some, it may be, shared in common with the country folk of France, Germany, and Italy. It is to the superstitious side of weather lore that the reader is directed more particularly

in the First Part of the present work; and it may be remarked that special attention has been paid to the weather proverbs attached to the various Saints' days throughout the year.

The Second Part contains sayings relating to the sun, moon, stars, and atmospheric influences generally; also many prognostics drawn from the habits of animals, birds, insects, &c.

To compile a Handbook of this kind would have been impossible without the aid of previous publications, a list of which is given below. The author is particularly indebted to 'Notes and Queries,' Brand, and Chambers, also to Professor Inwards' excellent book on this subject, and to Mr Denham's curious collection, which, however, contain but very few foreign proverbs. Many of the latter—not, however, in their original language—may be found in Baron von Reinsberg-Düringsfeld's 'Das Wetter im Sprichwort.'

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PART I.

A HANDBOOK

OF

WEATHER FOLK-LORE.

"The Almanac-maker makes the Almanac, but God makes the weather."—*Danish Proverb.*

THE YEAR.

* * *

A good year is always welcome.—*Iceland.*

The harvest depends more on the year than on the field.—*Denmark.*

Do not abuse the year till it has passed.—*Spain.*

Das vorige Jahr war immer besser.

Zeit macht Heu.

The Crops.

Corn in good years is hay, in ill years straw is corn.

After a famine in the stall
Comes a famine in the hall.

Another proverb to the same effect runs as follows,

Dearth always begins in the horse-manger:

"In opposition to the rack," says Ray; "for in dry years when hay is dear, commonly corn is cheap: but when oats (or indeed any one grain) is dear, the rest are seldom cheap."

Corn and horn go together.

The French say,

Quand les bêtes mangent,
Les hommes jeûnent.—*Drome.*

And,

L'homme et le bœuf ne sont jamais bien ensemble.

Acorns.

Année glanduleuse,
Année chancreuse.

Année de glands,
Année de cher temps.—*Haute Marne.*

So in Tuscany,

Anno ghiandoso,
Anno cancheroso.

And about Milan,

An de giand,
An pesant per tüce quant,

i.e., An acorn-year is a bad year for everything.

Beans.

Année de fèves,
Année de misère.—*Lot et Garonne.*

Cherries.

A cherry year,
A merry year.

Cockchafers.

Année hannetonneuse,
Année pommeuse.

Grande hannetonnée,
Petite vinée :
Grande hannetonnée,
Grande pommée.—*Dise.*

Si l'année a produit beaucoup de hannetons,
Il y aura beaucoup de châtaignes.—*Dordogne.*

Currants.

Année de groseilles,
Année de bouteilles.—*Nievre.*

Dry.

Whoso hath but a mouth
Will ne'er in England suffer drought.

Drought never bred dearth in England.

Année sèche n'appauvrit son maître.

Année de sécheresse
A toujours fait richesse.—*Allier.*

Longue sécheresse, lac de vin.—*Lot.*

Sonnjahr—Wonnjahr.

But, on the other hand,

If there be neither snow nor rain
Then will be dear all kinds of grain.

And

Année séche
Toujours peu revêche.—*Haute Loire.*

Frost.

Année de gelée,
Année de blé.

Grass.

An de fein,
An de rein, *i.e.* (useless).—*Switzerland.*

Ano de erba,
Ano de merda.—*Venetia.*

Beaucoup de foin,
Beaucoup de rien.

Haws.

A haw year,
A snaw year.—*Scotland.*

A haw year,
A braw year.—*North of Ireland.*

Mushrooms.

Année champignonnière,
Année de misère.—*Hautes Pyrénées.*

Anno fungato,
Anno tribolato.—*Tuscany.*

Nuts.

A good nut year—a good corn year.

Année de noisette,
Année de disette.—*Haute Marne.*

Pears.

A pear year,
A dear year.

Plums.

A plum year,
A dumb year, (referring to the silence of death?)
—*Kent.*

In the year when plums flourish, all else fails.—
Devon.

Radishes.

Année de raves,
Année de santé.—*Ardèche.*

Rain.

Année de pluie,
Manque de fruits.—*Haute Loire.*

Some rain, some rest,
Fine weather isn't always best.

Rime.

Année de givre,
Année de fruits.—*Eure et Loire.*

Snow.

A snow year, a rich year.

Année de neige,
Année de bien.—*Lozère.*

Année neigeuse,
Année fructueuse.

Année neigeuse remplit le grenier :
Année sans neige appauvrit le meûnier.—*Lozère.*

Schnee Jahr—reich Jahr.

An nevòs,
An frütuòs.—*Milan.*

Annata di nivi,
Annata di olivi.—*Venetia.*

Anno di neve,
Anno di bene.

Uberis ipsa frequens anni prænuncia nix est.

Wind.

Année venteuse,
Année fruiteuse.—*Calvados.*

Local.

Quando Guara tiene capa, y Moncayo chapiron, buen año para Castilla y mejor para Aragon:

i.e., When the mountains of Guara are tipped with snow, and those of Moncayo with fogs, they indicate that the year will be abundant. [*See under Clouds.*

LEAP YEAR.

Among the peasantry in Belgium there is a superstition that in Leap Year the young of no domestic animal will thrive, and that grafts and young shoots will never come to their full growth. Thus they have a proverb—

"In Leap Year the weather always changes on a Friday,"

That being an unlucky day; and the same prejudice exists in North Italy, where they say,

An bisesti, o la mama o 'l bambi:

i.e., When a child is born in leap year, either it or its mother will die before the year is over; and

An bisest no pianta vit, nè mèt inest,

A similar belief to that which has been mentioned as prevailing in Belgium. So, too, in Tuscany,

Quando l'anno vien bisesto,
Non por bachi e non far nesto.

And in France we find,

Année bissextile,
Année infertile.

Quand l'annado ès dé bizé (bissextile)
Méfia bous (méfiez vous) de l'annado avan et de l'annado après.

And,

Vo me senongé Bissetre—*Côte d'Or :*
i.e., You wish me bad luck.

"Bissetre, en bourguignon, s'est dit dans la signification de malheur, parceque la superstition a fait croire anciennement, et fait croire encore, qu'il y avait un mauvais sort attaché tant aux années bissextile qu'aux jours intercalaires du bissexte de février. A Dijon, en ces sorts d'anneés, le vulgaire dit que 'bissettre cor.'"—LAMMONOYE. Noels bourguignons : Glossaire, p. 28.

So too in the Eifel they say,

Schaltjahr—Kaltjahr.

And in Russia,

If St Cassian (Feb. 29) looks on a cow, the cow will die ; if he looks on a tree, it will wither.

In Scotland,

Leap year
Was never a good sheep year

is a common saying : whilst in Wormii Fast, Dan., p. 112, occur the following lines :—

Vulgus bissextum esse mali putat ominis annum,
Atque hominum varios infortunare labores :
Tum malè depargi vites, malè semina sulcis
Rara putant credi, pecoris mala pignora nasci :
Semina pomorum pedibus conversa supinis :
Et capite in terram memorant adolescere misso.

The Sicilians alone are of contrary opinion, saying,
Annata bisesta
Inchi ed assesta :
i.e., In leap year set and graft (vines).

SUCCESSION OF THE SEASONS.

Dat Clemens (Nov. 23) hiemem: dat Petrus ver cathedratus (Feb. 22):
Æstuat Urbanus (May 23): autumnat Bartolomæus (Aug. 24).
—DUCANGE, Gloss. Mediev. Lat.

The German version of which runs as follows :—
Sanct Clemens uns den Winter bringt,
Sanct Petri Stuhl dem Frühling winkt,
Den Sommer bringt uns Sanct Urban,
Der Herbst fängt um Bartolomäi an.

WINTER.

Early.

An air' winter,
A sair winter.—*Scotland.*

Cold.

Bis die Höhlen dreimal mit Schnee gefüllet sind,
Weht immer noch der Winter Wind.

Changeable.

Mony a frost and mony a thowe (thaw)
Soon maks mony a rotten yowe (ewe).

Mild.

One fair day in winter does not make birds merry.

A green winter makes a fat churchyard.
So the Germans say,
Grüner Winter macht den Kirchhof fett.

Thunder.

Tonnerre d'hiver—tonnerre d'enfer.

Winter thunder,
Poor man's death, rich man's hunger:
Because it is good for fruit and bad for corn.

Donner in Winter Quartal
Bringt uns Kälte ohne Zahl.

Winter and Spring.

Hiver doux—printemps sec:
Hiver rude—printemps pluvieux.—*Nord.*

Al inverno lluvioso
Verano abundoso—*Spain:*
i.e., After a rainy winter follows a fruitful spring.

Später Winter—spätes Frühjahr.

Winter and Summer.

Inverna süt (dry),
D'està bon früt.

Winter is summer's heir.

Wie es wintert, so sommert es.
But, on the other hand,
Hiver humide—été sec.—*Nord.*

Serein d'hiver, pluie d'été,
Ne font jamais pauvreté.
Corresponding with the Italian proverb,
Serè d'inverna e bon aqua d'estâ
Nè malatia, nè fam l'à mai portâ.—*Milan.*

Se bèl l'è stâ l'inverna e frèc l'estâ
Gran raccolt no sta a sperâ.—*Milan.*

Winter thunder and summer's flood
Never boded England any good.

Winter thunder,
Summer's hunger.

Winter finds out what summer lays up.

En hiver par tout pleut,
En été là où Dieu veut.

L'hiver nous fait plus de mal que l'été ne nous fait du bien.

En hiver au lit ou auprès du feu,
Et en été au soleil et au jeu.

General Proverbs.

The Venetians say,

Inverno—inferno:

the meaning of which may be guessed: nor are the Germans much more complimentary to this season in their proverb—

Der Winter ist ein unwerther Gast für alle Leute.

En hiver, eau ou bruine,
Vent neige ou grêle pour voisine.

In winter a fire is better than a Muscat rose.—*Persia.*

The fire is winter's fruit.—*Arabia.*

Winter never rots in the sky.

So the Italians say,

Nè caldo, nè gelo
Non restò mai in cielo.

L'hiver est dans un bissac,
S'il n'est pas dans un bout, il est dans l'autre.—*Calvados.*

L'hiver n'est pas bâtard :
S'il ne vient tôt, il vient tard.

SPRING.

Late.

A late spring
Is a great blessing.

And the Italian proverb is almost identical,

Primavera tardida
Mai falida :
i.e., A late spring never deceives.

Better late ripe and bear than early blossom and blast.

Cold.

A cold spring kills the roses.—*Arabia.*

Cold weather in spring makes the ass shiver.—*Sardinia.*

Wet.

Jamais pluie au printemps
Ne passe pour mauvais temps.

A wet spring—a dry harvest.

Fine.

The Russians say,
"A fine spring is good for everybody."

Thunder.

Thunder in spring
Cold will bring.

Shearing.

You may shear your sheep
When the elder blossoms peep.

Sowing.

Nae hurry wi' your corns,
Nae hurry wi' your harrows;
Snaw lies ahint the dyke,
Mair may come and fill the furrows.—*Scotland.*

Sow wheat in dirt and rye in dust.

Exactly corresponding with the French,

Sème les seigles dans la terre poudreuse,
Et les froments dans la terre bourbeuse.—*Rhône.*

Sow thin—shear thin.

But the French say,

Qui sème dru
Récolte menu.—*Moselle.*

Sow beans in the mud
And they'll grow like a wood.

When the sloe tree is as white as a sheet,
Sow your barley whether it be dry or wet.

When the oak puts on his gosling grey,
'Tis time to sow barley, night or day.

Cuckoo.

When the cuckoo comes to the bare thorn,
Sell your cow and buy your corn:

But when she comes to the full bit,
Sell your corn and buy your sheep:

i.e., A late spring is bad for cattle, and an early spring for corn.—RAY.

The French say,

Si lou coucou vé nud,
Belco dé paillo, paou de gru—*Dordogne:*

i.e., If the cuckoo comes when the trees are bare, there will be much straw but little grain.

The cuckoo comes in mid March
And cucks in mid April:
And goes away at Lammas tide,
When the corn begins to fill.

In April,
The cuckoo shows his bill;
In May,
He sings all day:
In June,
He alters his tune:
In July,
He prepares to fly:
In August,
Go he must.

Heywood, in his epigram, "Of Use," 1587, alludes to the Cuckoo's change of note in June, as follows:—

In Aprill, the Koocoo can sing her song by rote,
In June, of tune, she cannot sing a note:
At first, koo-coo, koo-coo, sing still can she do,
At last, kooke, kooke, kooke; six kookes to one koo.

In England and Bohemia the 14th of April is called "Cuckoo day," in Germany, the 15th.

The Venetians say,

Ai oto de April el cuco ha da vegnir:
E se nol vien ai oto, di 'che l'è preso o che l'è morto:
E se nol vien ai diese,
L'è preso per le siese;
E se nol vien ai vinti,
L'è preso in t'i forminti;
E se nol vien ai trenta,
El pastor l'ha magnà co la polenta:

i.e., The cuckoo ought to come on the 8th of April; if he does not come on the 8th, he has been either caught or is dead: If he does not come on the 10th, he has been caught in the hedge; if he does not come on the 20th, he has been caught in the corn; and if he does not come on the 30th, the shepherd must have eaten him with polenta.

Swallow.

It is remarkable that most countries have a similar proverb respecting the first appearance of the swallow. We say,

One swallow does not make a spring:

The Greeks,

μία χελιδών ἔαρ οὔ ποίει:

The Romans,

Una hirundo non facit ver:

The French,

Une hirondelle ne fait pas le printemps:

The Germans,

Eine Schwalbe macht keinen Frühling:

The Dutch,

Een Swaluw maakt geen zomer:

The Swedes,

En Svala gör ingen sommar:

The Spanish,

Una golondrina no hace verano:

The Italians,
Una rondine non fa primavera.

General Proverbs.

The spring is not always green.

Spring is both father and mother to us, he who does not sow will not reap.—*Gallicia.*

Spring and Summer.

Printemps sec—été pluvieuse.

Viel Nebel im Frühjahr—viel Regen in Sommer.

Spring and Autumn.

In spring a tub of rain makes a spoonful of mud:
In autumn a spoonful of rain makes a tub of mud.—*Bohemia.*

Spring rain damps—autumn rain soaks.—*Russia.*

Spring and Winter.

If there's spring in winter, and winter in spring,
The year wont be good for any thing.

So the French say,
Quand en hiver est été,
Et en été hivernée,
Jamais n'est bon année.

SUMMER.

Dry.

A dry summer never made a dear peck.

Wet.

Sommerregen, glücklich die Felder die ihn bekommen:

i.e., Happy are the fields that receive summer rain.

Dry and Wet.

When the sand doth feed the clay
[Which is in a wet summer]
England woe and well a day!
But when the clay doth feed the sand
[Which is in a dry summer]
Then it is well with England:

"Because there is more clay than sandy ground in England."—RAY.

Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

Der Sommer giebt korn;
Der Herbst leert sein Horn:
Das Winter verzehrt
Was die Beiden bescheert.

Wer in Heumonat nicht gabelt,
Im Kornschnitt nicht zabelt,
Im Herbst nicht früh aufsteht
Mag seh'n wie es ihm im Winter geht.

Summer and Winter.

L'été pluvieux—l'hiver rigoureux.
So the Italian proverb,
Ombra d'estat—dolur d'envéren.

L'été orageux—l'hiver pluvieux.

Heisse Sommer und kalte Winter bringen keine böse Zeit.

"The time will come," say the Bohemians, "when Winter will ask us, 'What were you doing all the summer?'"

Der Sommer ist ein Nährer,
Der Winter ein Bezehrer.

Summer comes with a bound: winter comes yawning.—*Finland.*

General Proverbs.

Frosty nights and hot sunny days
Set the corn fields all in a blaze.

Chi dis mal de l'estat, corpo de Diana
El dis mal de la Vergine sovrana—*Bergamo:*
i.e., He who speaks ill of summer, by the body of Diana, he speaks ill of the sovereign Virgin mother: because
L'estâ l'e la mader dei poverèt:
i.e., Summer is the mother of the poor.

An English summer, two hot days and a thunderstorm.

AUTUMN.

Fine.

Ist der Herbst warm, hell und klar,
So ist zu hoffen ein fruchtbar Jahr.—*Palatinate.*

Autumn and Spring.

Pluie abondante pendant l'automne annonce printemps sec.

Autumn and Winter.

La muger del viñadero buen otoño y mal invierno —*Spain:*
i.e., The vintager's wife prefers autumn to winter.

Viel Nebel im Herbst—viel Schnee im Winter.

Harvest.

A long harvest—a little corn.

Short harvests make short addlings (earnings).—*Yorkshire.*

Transplanting.

If you would fruit have,
You must bring the leaf to the grave:

i.e., You must transplant your trees just about the fall of the leaf, neither sooner nor much later: not sooner, because of the motion of the sap; not later, that they may have time to take root before the deep frosts.—RAY.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MONTHS.

Janvier le fier, froid et frileux,
Février le court et fiévreux,
Mars poudreux, Avril pluvieux,
Mai joli, gai et venteux,
Dénotent l'an fertile et plantureux.—*Côte d'Or.*

Ol frec de Zenér, ol mal tep de Febrér.
I ventù de Marz, le pioisine d'Avril,
Ol sguas de Mas, ol bü racolt de Zögn,
Ol bat de Löi e i Sanc aquaröi
Tone, Piero e Jacom,
E d'Agost la buna stagiù
I val piö del trono del re Salomù—*Bergamo:*

i.e., A cold January, a stormy February, a windy March, a showery April, a dewy May, a good harvest in June, threshing in July, the three Saints, Anthony (June 13), Peter (June 29), and James (July 25) rainy, and a fine August, are worth more than King Solomon's throne.

In Coar (Sept.-Oct.) the cold weather begins; in Cartic (Oct.-Nov.) it ends almost before it has

begun. Ughun (Nov.-Dec.) just gives time for the water to boil (because the days are so short); Poss (Dec.-Jan.) finds us creeping into corners (to get warm). In Magh (Jan.-Feb.) the days lengthen little by little: in P'hagoon (Feb.-March) we begin to stretch our limbs (which were cramped from the cold and wet). With Cheyt (March-April) Nature wakes, and he who feels dirty can wash himself.—*Hindûstan.*

JANUARY.

Cold.

A kindly good Janiveer
Freezeth the pot by the feer (fire).—TUSSER.

Jack Frost in Janiveer
Nips the nose of the nascent year.

The blackest month in all the year
Is the month of Janiveer.

Janvier a quatre bonnets.

Gerar el g' à i dent lungh.—*Brescia.*

Gran frèd de Genar
L'impieniss el granar.—*Bergamo.*

In January a man spends a few minutes in the sunshine, but all the rest of the day in the chimney-corner.—*Portugal.*

Quien no tiene calzas en Enero
No fies del tu dinero—*Spain:*
i.e., Do not lend money to a man who does not wear breeches in January (the coldest month in the year).

It is a general opinion that
As the day lengthens,
So the cold strengthens.

Thus we find,

a. Quand le jour croit
Aussi fait le froid.

b. Wächst der Tag—wächst die Kälte.

c. Wann de Dage fangt an to längen
Fangt der Winter an to strengen.—*Platt Deutsch.*

d. Cresce di, cresce'l freddo, dice il pescatore.

e. Luces crescentes faciunt decrescere sepes.

Mild.

If the grass grows in Janiveer,
It grows the worse for it all the year.—RAY.

Exactly equivalent to the German proverb,

Wenn's Gras wachst in Januar
Wachst es schlecht durch's ganze Jahr.

Wenn in Januar die Frucht auf dem Felde wachst, so wird sie theuer.

If you see grass in January,
Lock your grain in the granary.

So the Italians say,

Quando Jennajo mette erba
Se tu hai grano e tu lo serba.

Fleurs de Janvier,
Ne vont dans le panier.—*Ardèche.*

January blossoms fill no man's cellars.—*Portugal.*

A January spring
Is worth nothing.

Januar warm
Das's Gott erbarm'!

So in Corsica,

Dio ti guardi di un buon Jennaro!

Tanzen in Januar die Mucken
Muss der Bauer nach dem Futter gucken.—*Switzerland.*

Corresponding with the Milanese,

Quand de Genar ta vèdet el moscon,
Tègn di cünt ogni bocon:

i.e., When you see midges in January, treasure up every bit (of fodder).

And with the French,

Si les mouches dansent en Janvier,
Le cultivateur devra s'inquiéter de ses furrages.—*Haut Rhin.*

Il vaudrait mieux voir un loup sur un fumier
Qu'un homme en chemise en Janvier.—*Jura.*

Ist der Januar gelind
Lenz und Sommer fruchtbar sind.

Dry.

Genar sech
Paisa rech.—*Bergamo.*

Quand sec est le mois de Janvier,
Ne doit se plaindre le fermier.—*Rhône.*

Quand il ne pleut pas en Janvier,
Il faut étayer le grenier.—*Tarn-et-Garonne.*

And the Venetians say,

Genaro in polvere :
Fate 'l granaro de rovere.

i.e., If January be dusty, we shall have to make our granaries of oak (because the weight they will have to sustain will be great).

Ist der Januar nicht nass
Füllet sich des Winzer's Fass.

Wet.

A wet January is not so good for corn, but not so bad for cattle.—*Portugal.*

Pluie de Janvier—cherté.

Im Januar viel Regen, wenig Schnee,
Thut Bergen Thälern und Bäumen weh !—*Eifel.*

Misty.

Nebel im Januar
Macht ein nass Frühjahr.

Neplos de Janbie, mourtello malaoutio—*Lozère :*

i.e., Brouillards de Janvier, maladie mortelle.

Thunder in January.

Thunder in January signifieth the same year great winds, plentifull of corn and cattle, peradventure.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Quand il tonne en Janvier,
Il tonne tous les mois de l'année.—*Vendée.*

January foretelling the weather of the year.

Anfang und Ende vom Januar,
Zeigt das Wetter an für's ganze Jahr.

January and February.

Genar e Febrar,
In dii mesche van de par—*Milan:*

i.e., January and February are two months of the same temperature.

Quand Zinvier fait l'Février
Février fait l'Zinvier.—*Picardy.*

Les beaux jours de Janvier
Trompent l'homme en Février.

Loila esadila hoila, ondotic darraic barandaila—*Basque provinces:*

i.e., January, do not boast (of your fine weather), for February is close at your heels.

January and February
Fill or empty the granary.

Janvier et Février
Comblent ou vuident le grenier.

Gennar el fa i pont e Febrar el ie romp—*Bergamo:*

i.e., January makes bridges (of ice) and February breaks them.

Enero y Febrero comen mas que Madrid y Toledo.

i.e., January and February eat more than Madrid and Toledo.

"Alluding to the herdsmen and others who deal in cattle, to express the quantity they dispose of, and the scarcity of pasture in those months."—COLLINS.

January and March.

March in Janiveer,
Janiveer in March, I fear.

So in Germany,
Den März fürcht' ich in Januar,
Im Januar den März, fürwahr.

January, March, and April.

In January should sun appear,
March and April pay full dear.

January and May.

Who in Janiveer sows oats,
Gets gold and groats:

Who sows in May,
Gets little that way.

Genar el fa i pecat e Mag l'e condanat—*Milan:*
i.e., January commits the fault and May bears the blame.

General Proverbs (Fowls).

If one but knew how good it were
To eat a pullet in Janiveer,
If he had twenty in a flock,
He'd leave but one to go with cock.—RAY.

The Spaniards say,
Pollo di Enero sube con el padre al gallinero:
i.e., The January fowl follows the cock to roost, (as being the favourite). "Fowls reared in January are supposed to be stronger than those hatched in warm weather."

(Mole.)

Wirft der Maulwurf im Januar, so dauert der Winter bis Mai.

(Woodpecker.)

Quando canta il pigozzo di Gennaio
Tieni a mano il pagliaio—*Venetia:*
i.e., When the Woodpecker sings in January, keep your fodder till the morrow (for it is a sign of snow or rain).

DAYS IN JANUARY.

1. Feast of the Circumcision.

The Feast of the Circumcision was very generally considered by our forefathers as ominous, and as prognosticating the weather of the ensuing year. So we read in Digges' 'Prognosticacion Everlasting of ryghte goode Effect,' 4to., Lond. 1596, page 12, the following curious directions :—

"It is affirmed by some, when New Yeare's day falleth on the Sunday, then a pleasant winter doth ensue: a naturall summer: fruite sufficient: harvest indifferent, yet some winde and raine: many marriages: plentie of wine and honey: death of young men and cattell: robberies in most places: newes of prelates, of kinges: and cruell warres in the end.

"On Monday, a winter somewhat uncomfortable: summer temperate: no plentie of fruite: many fansies and fables opened: agues shall raigne: kings and many others shall dye: marriages shall be in most places: and a common fall of gentlemen.

"On Tuesday, a stormie winter: a wet summer: a divers harvest: corne and fruite indifferent, yet hearbes in gardens shall not flourish: great sicknesse of men, women, and young children. Beasts shall hunger, starve and dye of the botch: many shippes, gallies and hulkes shall be lost: and the bloodie flixes shall kill many men: all things deare, save corne.

"On Wednesday, lo, a warme winter: in the end snowe and frost: a cloudie summer, plentie of fruite, corne, hay, wine, and honey: great paine to women with childe, and death to infants: good for sheepe: news of kinges: great warres: battell, and slaughter towards the middell.

"On Thursday, winter and summer windie: a rainie harveste: therefore wee shall have overflowings: much fruite: plentie of honey: yet flesh shall be deare: cattell in general shall die: great trouble, warres, &c.; with a licencious life of the feminine sexe.

"On Friday, winter stormie: summer scant and pleasant: harvest indifferent: little store of fruite, of wine and honey: corne deare: many bleare eyes: youth shall dye: earthquakes are perceived in many places: plentie of thunders, lightnings, and tempestes: with a sudden death of cattell.

"On Saturday, a mean winter: summer very hot: a late harvest: good cheape garden hearbs: much burning: plentie of hempe, flax, and honey. Old folke shall dye in most places: fevers and tercians shall grieve many people: great muttering of warres: murthers shall be suddenly committed in many places for light matters."

There are also predictions not much varying from the above, in the 'Shepherd's Kalendar:' only in the latter work the compiler refers the reader, for authorities, to "the learned and wise men of the Chaldeans, Arabians, Egyptians, and many Europeans," with this judicious addition, "leaving

the event to take effect, from your making remarks on what has been hinted, as you find it come to pass."

In the South of France the first six days of January, called "Les Calendes" (see on Jan. 25), are considered to foretell the character of the weather which will prevail during the first six months of the year.

In Banffshire, particular attention is paid to the three first days of winter, and to the first night of January, which is called "Oidhch' Choille," for "on the first night, they observe, with anxious attention, the disposition of the atmosphere. As it is calm or boisterous, as the wind blows from the S. or the N., from the E. or the W., they prognosticate the nature of the weather till the conclusion of the year. The first night of the new year when the wind blows from the W., they call "dàr-na-coille," *i.e.*, the night of the fecundation of the trees.—P. KIRKMICHAEL: Statistic. Acc. xii. 458.

But in Belgium a north wind blowing on New Year's night is considered to prognosticate a fruitful season.

If New Year's day in the morning open with red dusky clouds, it denotes strife and debates among great ones, and many robberies to happen during the year.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

And so the German proverb,

Morgenroth am ersten Tag
Unwetter bringt und grosse Plag'.

If January Kalends be summerly gay,
'Twill be winterly weather to the Kalends of May.

Lengthening of the Days.

At New Year's tide
The days lengthen a cock's stride.

With which may be compared,

a. Um Neujahr hat der Tag einen Hahnenschritt gewonnen.

b. Przybylo dnia na kurza stope—*Polish:*
i.e., At New Year's day the day has advanced a cock's stride.

c. A l'an neuf
Les jours croissent le repas d' un bœuf.

At New Year's day a cock's stride:
At Candlemas an hour wide.

Till New Year, sweat:
Till May, no heat.

2. (St Macarius of Alexandria.)

There was an old superstition that the weather of the first twelve days in January foretold the weather which could prevail in the twelve months of the year. These days are called in Brittany "Gourdésiou," *i. e.*, Head or chief days. That this belief was shared by our ancestors is evident from the following extract from Lloyd's "Diall of Daies," 4to, Lond. 1590, fol. B. 3.

"Jan. 2. This day sheweth the nature and state of September."

"Thus the Germans say—

"'Wie das Wetter am Makarius war,
So wird's im September, trüb oder klar.'

"Jan. 4. This day doth shew the nature and state of November.

"Jan. 8. This day before noone declared the nature of June, and after noone the nature of May.

"Jan. 9. This daye openeth the nature of August before noone, and after noone doth shew the state of July, as in Practica Rusticorum is laid down.

"Jan. 10. This day sheweth the nature of October before noone, and after noone the nature of September.

"Jan. 11. Before noone, this day declareth the nature of December, and after noone the nature of November.

"Jan. 12. This day being the twelfe, doth foreshewe the nature and condition of the whole year, and doth confirme the eleven daies going before."

4. (St Pharailde.)

If the sun shine on this day, the Belgians consider it to prognosticate pestilence. Hence the proverb,

De Sainte Pharailde la chaleur,
C'est sa colère et c'est not' malheur.

6. (The Epiphany.)

Si le soleil luit le jour des Rois,
Il y aura deux hivers.—*Charente.*

Considered by the Italians to be one of the coldest days. Thus they say:

All' Epifania
El frec l'ismania.—*Bergamo.*

And

D'Epifania
El pü gran frèd che mai ghe sia—*Milan:*
i.e., At Epiphany is the greatest cold we can have.

In Dalmatia there is a proverb that—

"If you were to ask a wolf when he felt the cold most, he would say 'At the winter solstice' (which is at Epiphany)."

So, too, on the Rhine,

De hilgen drei Küenige bugget (baut) 'ne Brügge, oder tebreaket (zerbricht) eine:

i.e., The three holy kings build a bridge or break one: meaning that either a hard frost or a thaw comes at this season,

Second Sunday after the Epiphany;

In the Roman Kalendar, this is the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

An Jesu Namen so nah' als möglich dem Ofen:

i.e., On the Feast of the Holy Name sit as close as you can to the fire.

In the Kalendar of the English Church, the 7th of August is dedicated to the name of our blessed Lord, according to the use of Sarum.

12. "If the sun shines on this day, it foreshows much wind."—*Husbandman's Practice.*

* * *

14. (St Hilary.)

The coldest day of the year.—*Yorkshire.*

17. (St Antony the Hermit.)

Zent Tönnes brengt Is of brecht Is.—*Aix la Chapelle.*

i.e., St Antony brings ice or breaks it.

With which may be compared,

Sant Antone de Zener, se 'l g'à giazz el la ol desfà, se nol la trou la ol fa:

i.e., St Antony in January—to distinguish him from S. Antony of Padua, whose festival is in June—if he finds ice, he melts it; if he does not find it, he makes it.—*Milan.*

Sant Antoni, mercant de nev.—*Milan.*

Sant Antoni de la barba blanca,
Se no gh'e giazz, gh'e sposa blanca (*i.e.*, snow).—*Bergamo.*

Il barbuto, il frecciato, e il pettinato,
Il freddo è andato—*Tuscany:*

i.e., When the bearded saint (S. Antony), he who was pierced with arrows (St Sebastian, Jan. 20), and the comber (St Blasius, Feb. 4), have passed, then the cold is over.

Sant Antone fa i punt e San Paol el ie romp—*Bergamo:*

i.e., St Antony makes bridges, and S. Paul (Jan. 25) breaks them.

Alluding to the lengthening of the days, we find the following proverbs:—

a. A la Saint Antoine,
Les jours croissent le repas d'un moine. — *Normandy.*

b. Sant Antoni n'ora bona—*Milan:*

i.e., At St Antony's day, a good hour.

c. A San Antone.
Ol de se slunga ü passe de demone—*Bergamo:*

i.e., At St Antony's tide
The days lengthen a demon's stride.

18. (St Peter's Chair at Rome.)

A la Saint Pierre,
L'hiver s'en va ou il ressere.

Inde Cathed: S. Petri 40 dies rigidos et totidem S. Matthias denunciant. Hic rumpere glaciem dicitur (see on S. Matthias) et, nisi reperiat, afferre.—*Bucelinus.*

Wenn's friert op Petri Stuhlfeier,
Friert es noch vierzehnmal heuer.—*Holstein.*

In Petri Cathedrâ glacie si stringitur unda,
Non perit ante dies hæc quater atque decem.

20. (SS. Fabian and Sebastian.)

In Germany this day seems to be considered as that on which nature begins to awaken. Thus in Holstein there is a saying—

Fabian Sebastian
Lett den Saft in 't Holt gaen:

With which may be compared,

Dum Fabianus adest humorem percipit arbor,
Reddidit arboribus succus post festa Sebasti.—*Buchler.*

San Bastian
Co la viola in man:
Viola o no viola, de l'inverno semo fora—*Venice:*

i.e., St Sebastian, violet in hand: violet or no violet, we are quit of winter.

A la Saint Sébastien
L'hiver reprend ou se casse les dents.—*Nord.*

21. (St Agnes.)

St Agnes treibt die Lerchen aus der Stadt.

Sant Agnes
El frèd l'e per i ges—*Bergamo:*

i.e., On St Agnes' day the cold comes through the chinks.

A Sant Agnes
La löserta fò d' la ses—*Bergamo:*

i.e., On St Agnes' day the lizard comes out of the hedge.

22. (SS. Vincent, Timotheus.)

The state of the weather on this day is supposed throughout the Continent to have a great influence on the coming vintage. So we find the old leonine verses,

Vincenti festo, si sol radiet, memor esto :
Para tuas cuppas, quia multas colliges uvas.

The French version of which runs as follows :—

Prends garde au jour de Saint Vincent,
Car si ce jour tu vois et sens
Que le soleil soit clair et biau,
Nous erons plus de vin que d'eau.—*Côte d'Or.*

Um Vinzenzen Sonnenschein
Füllt die Fässer mit Wein.

The country people about Wurzburg say,—

Vincentii Sonnenschein
Bringt viel Korn und Wein :
Bringt er aber Wasserflut,
Ist's für beides nicht gut.

If the sun shine on the 22d of January, there shall be much wind.—*Husbandman's Practice.*

A la Saint Vincent
L'hyver se reprend,
Tout gèle ou tout fend,
On se rompt la dent.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

A Saint Vincent
Les glaciers perdent leurs dents,
Ou les recouvrent pour long temps.—*Bouches-du-Rhône.*

A la Saint Vincent
L'hiver s'engrine, si l'attens.

A Sant Visenz la gran fredüra,
A Sant Lorenz (Aug. 10) la gran caldura.—*Brescia.*

The Russians consider that on this day (the festival of St Timothy in the calendar of the Greek Church) half of winter has elapsed.

*25. (Conversion of St Paul.)

"I do not find that any one has even hazarded a conjecture why prognostications of the weather, &c., for the whole year, are to be drawn from the appearance of this day." —Brand's Pop. Antiq., vol i. p. 39. It is singular, also, that this day was numbered among the "dies Egyptiaci," or unlucky days, by the old prognosticators; of which the Venerable Bede says that as Egypt in Greek signifies darkness, the day of death is called an Egyptian day, and that there are twenty-two days in the year in which an hour is terrible to mortals.

The old historian, William of Newbury, thinks that they were called "Egyptian days" from the authors of this superstition (lib. iv. cap. 1); and this opinion is also entertained by Wormius (Fast. Dan., p. 74), who says: "Immo etiam deventum est ut dies omnes infausti habiti, Egyptiaci vulgo dicantur; quia Egyptii præ reliquis huic superstitioni dediti fuere:" and so Arnaud of Villeneuve (de Regim: Sanitat: cap. 37): "De diebus Egyptiacis scriptis in antiquo Calendario, dico quod non est causa naturalis quare fuerunt maledicti, sed supernaturalis: nec fuerunt maledicti apud omnes gentes, sed apud illos de regno Pharaonis." See, too, Durandus de Rat. Div. Off. Lib. viii. cap. 4.

But to discuss the question of lucky and unlucky days is not the object of the compiler of this work: and, returning to the weather proverbs peculiar to this festival, it is to be observed that there are sayings similar to the following old Latin verses, in the English, French, Danish, Dutch, German, Flemish, and Italian languages.

First, however, let it be remarked that of the Latin proverb there are three versions, differing in a very slight degree, viz.:—

a. Clara dies Pauli bona tempora denotat anni:
Si nix vel pluvia, designat tempora cara:
Si fiant nebulæ, morietur bestia quæque:
Si fiant venti, præliabunt prælia genti.

b. Clara dies Pauli bona tempora nunciat anni:
Si fuerint venti, comitantur prælia genti:
Si nix aut pluvia, designat tempora rara:
Si fuerint nebulæ, pereunt animalia peste.

c. Clara dies Pauli bonitatem denotat anni:
Si fuerint venti, crudelia prælia genti:
Quando sunt nebulæ, pereunt animalia quæque:
Si nix aut pluvia, tunc fiunt omnia cara.

The English saying is as follows:—

If the day of St Paul be clere,
Then shall betide a happy yeere:
If it do chaunce to snow or raine,
Then shall be deare all kinds of graine:
But if the winde then bee alofte,
Warres shall vex this realme full ofte:
And if the cloudes make dark the sky,
Both neate and fowle this yeere shall die.

Two others may be mentioned:—

If the sun shines on this day, it betokens a good year; if it rain or snow, indifferent; if misty, it predicts great dearth; if it thunder, great winds and death of people that year.—*Book of Knowledge.*

If it be a fair day, it will be a pleasant year: if it be windy, there will be wars: if it be cloudy, it foreshadows the plague that year.—*Dicll of Daies.*

The French proverb is thus given by Brand :—

De Sainct Paule le claire journée
Nous dénote une bonne année.
S'il fait vent, nous aurons la guerre,
S'il neige ou pleut, cherté sur terre :
S'on voit fort épais les brouillars
Mortalité de toutes parts.

And thus in Notes and Queries, Series I., vol. ix. p. 307 :—

Si le jour Saint Paul le convers
Se trouve byaucob descouvert,
L'on aura pour celle sayson
Du bled et du foyn à foyson :
Et sy ce jour fait vant sur terre,
Ce nous synyfye guerre :
S'yl pleut ou nège, sans fallir.
Le chier tans nous doet asalir :
Si de nyelle faict, brunes ou brouillars,
Selon le dyt de nos vyellars,
Mortalitey nous est ouverte.

Compare the German proverbs :—

Sanct Paulus klar
Bringt gutes Jahr :
So er bringt wind,
Regnet's geschwind.
Sanct Paulus klar mit Sonnenschein
Bringt Fruchtbarkeit dem Korn und Wein,

In the north of Italy the country people carefully notice the weather of the first twenty-four days of this month, which they call "Zorni endegari," or "Calende," and from them deduce prognostications for the whole year. They begin with New Year's day, which is termed "Zenaro"—*i.e.*, January—and so proceed to the 12th, giving to each day the name of the corresponding month, the weather of which it is considered to foretell. On the 13th, reversing the order, they go on to the 24th, which they also call January, whilst the 13th is December, the 14th, November, &c. Thus, if the 7th and 18th, the days corresponding to July, should prove wet and stormy, the weather of that month would be of the same character. However, if the 25th, the day following these Calende, be partly fine and partly wet, the whole prognostication is considered to be uncertain.—*Bonifacio, Proverbi Lombardi.*

Hence the proverbs:—

Se'l giorno de San Paol l'è scüro,
De la ghirlande no me n'incüro—*Milan:*

i.e., If St Paul's day be cloudy, I need not trouble myself about the Ghirlanda.

San Paol de le Calende,
De le calenda no me n'incüro,
Basta che a San Paol no fassa scüro—*Milan:*

i.e., St Paul of the Calende, with the Calende I don't trouble myself, it is enough if St Paul's day is not cloudy.

Se San Paol l'e ciar e la Ceriöla scüra,
De l'inverna no g'o pü paüra—*Milan:*

i.e., If St Paul be clear and Candlemas cloudy, we have no more cause to be afraid of winter.

Le jour Saint Paul
L'hiver se rompt le col.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Pauli Bekehr
Der halbe Winter hin, der halbe her:

i.e., On St Paul's day, half of winter is past, and half has to come.

In Alsace there is a common belief that on the evening of this day a fierce contest takes place among the winds, and that the wind which proves victorious at midnight will be the prevailing wind throughout the year.

27. (St Julian.)
Saint Julien brise glace,
S'il ne la brise, il l'embrasse.

28. (St Charlemagne.)
Saint Charlemagne aime la vigne et les arbres fruitiers.—*Belgium.*

FEBRUARY.

Cold.

Februeer
Doth cut and shear.

The country people in Picardy have a nursery rhyme in which the thrush is represented as saying,

Février Février,
Si tu gèles, t'engèleros mes t'chiots (my young ones).

Mild.

When gnats dance in February, the husbandman becomes a beggar.

Wenn im Februar tanzen die Mücken auf dem Mist,
So verschliess dein Futter in die Kist.—*Eifel.*

Wenn im Hornung die Mücken schwärmen
Muss man im März die Ohren wärmen.

The Welshman had rather see his dam on the bier
Than see a fair Februeer.

The German version of which is,

Im Hornung sieht man lieber den Wolf, als einen Bauern in Hemdsärmeln;

and the French,

Vaut autant voir un loup dans un troupeau
Que le mois de Février beau.—*Vaucluse.*

All the months of the year
Curse a fair Februeer.

February singing
Never stints stinging.

Si héouré non hé sas hé sas héourétats,
Touts és messés sou courrouçats—*Hautes Pyrénées:*

i.e., Si Février ne donne pas ses bourrasques,
Tous les mois sont courroucés.

Dry.

Si Février n'a ni pluie ni giboulée, tous les mois de l'an seront ennuyeux.—*Gers.*

If in February there be no rain,
'Tis neither good for hay nor grain.

Wet.

February, an ye be fair,
The hoggs 'll mend, and naething pair (lessen):
February, an ye be foul,
The hoggs 'll die in ilka pool.—*Tweedside.*

Quando llueve en Hebrero
Todo el año ha tempero—*Spain:*

i.e., If it rains in February, it will be temperate throughout the year.

Eau de Février
Vaut jus de fumier.—*Manche.*

Bon aqua de Febrar
Empieniss el granar.—*Milan.*

Si Février laisse les fossés pleins
Les garniers deviendront pleins.—*Charente.*

February fill dyke
With what thou dost like.—*Tusser.*

Snow in February.

February fill ditch,
Black or white (*i.e.*, rain or snow), don't care which:
If it be white,
It's the better to like.

Néou (Neige) qué toumbo al més de Fébrio
Met'en bello humou (bel humeur) l'usurio.—*Lozère.*

Die weisse Gans (*i.e.*, snow) im Februar brütet besser.

Neige qui donne Février
Met peu de blé au grenier.—*Lot et Garonne.*

Short.

Février le court,
Le pire de tout.

So the Italian proverbs,

a. Febrar cürt, pèg de tüt.—*Milan.*

b. L'è cürt Febrar
Ma semper amar.—*Bergamo.*

Februus est brevis et sociorum pessimus idem.
Febrar cürt, malan lungh—*Milan:*
i.e., February is short, its discomfort long.

Février entre tous les mois
Le plus court et moins courtois.

So sagte der Bauer,
Ein kurzer Hornung sei ein Lauer.

Deceitful.

Frearzu facies facies—*Sardinia:*
i.e., Double-faced February.

Thunder in February.

In February if thou hearest thunder,
Thou wilt see a summer's wonder.

S'il tonne en Février,
Il faut jeter les fûtes sur le fumier.—*Charente.*

Thunder in February signifieth that same year many rich men shall die in great sickness.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Wind.

Heftige Nordwinde am Ende Februar
Vermelden ein fruchtbares Jahr:
Wenn Nordwind aber im Februar nicht will,
So kommt er sicher in April.

Grain.

Belle avoine de Février
Donne espérance au grenier.—*Calvados.*

Local Proverb.

The fair day of Auld Deer (3d Thursday in February)
Is the warst day in a' the year.—*Aberdeen.*

February and March.

February makes a bridge and March breaks it.

Si Février ne février (*i.e.*, does not play its proper part),
Mars vient qui le garrotte.

Se Febrar no'l febrareza,
Marz el verdèza.—*Milan.*

Sé Fébrié non fébrijo
Sé Mars non marséjo,
Touté l'annado malaoutéjo—*Ariège:*
i.e., If February and March do not play their proper part (rain), there will be much rain throughout the year.

Février doit remplir les fosses, Mars les doit rendre sèche.

February and Summer.

Aqua de Febrar,
Estâ seren e ciar.

February and August.

Ist der Februar kalt und trocken, so soll der August heiss werden.

DAYS IN FEBRUARY.

2. (Purification of the Blessed Virgin.)

"There is a general tradition," says Sir Thomas

Browne in his 'Vulgar Errors,' "in most parts of Europe, that inferreth the coldness of succeeding winter from the shining of the sun on Candlemas-day, according to the proverbial distich—

Si Sol splendescat Mariâ purificante,
Major erit glacies post festum quam fuit ante."

Another Latin rhyme is,—

Imber si datur, Virgo dum purificatur,
Inde notatur quod hiems abinde fugatur:
Si Sol det radium, frigus erit nimium.

There are several English versions of these Latin sayings, *e.g.*—

a. When on the Purification sun hath shined,
The greater part of winter comes behind.

* * *

b. If Candlemas-day be dry and fair,
The half o' winter 's to come and mair:
If Candlemas be wet and foul,
The half o' winter 's gane at Yule.—*Scotland.*

c. If Candlemas-day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight:
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and won't come again.

The French say:

La Chandeleur noire,
L'hiver a fait son devoir:
La Chandeleur trouble,
L'hiver redouble.

The Germans:

a. Ist's zu Lichtmess hell und rein,
Wird ein langen Winter sein:
Wenn es stürmt und schneit,
Ist der Frühling nicht mehr weit. — *Rhenish Palatinate.*

b. Scheint zu Lichtmess die Sonne heiss,
Kommt noch sehr viel Schnee und Eis.

The Italians:

Neve o nevischio dia la Candelaja
Poco vache l'inverno non dispaja:
Ma se invece dia pioggia ovver sereno,
Altri quaranta di d'inverno—*Bergamo:*

i.e., If on Candlemas-day there be snow or hail, we shall soon have done with winter: but if there be rain or sunshine, winter will continue for 40 days.

The Basques have a proverb,

Ganderalu hoz,
Negua boz:
Ganderalu bero,
Negua Pascos guero:

i.e., If Candlemas be cold, the winter will be mild: but if Candlemas be hot, winter will last till after Easter.

If Candlemas-day be fair and clear
There'll be two winters in the year.

Lichtmessen hell
Schindet den Buurn dat Fell:
Lichtmessen dunkel
Maakt den Buur tom Junker—*Platt Deutsch:*

i.e., A clear Candlemas skins the peasant: a cloudy Candlemas makes him a nobleman.

As far as the sun shines on Candlemas-day,
So far will the snow blow in afore old May.

On Candlemas-day if the sun shines clear,
The shepherd had rather see his wife on the bier.

Zu Lichtmess sieht der Bauer lieber den Wolf in Schafstalle, denn die Sonne.

Foul weather is no news; hail, rain, and snow
Are now expected and esteemed no woe:
Nay, 'tis an omen bright, the yeomen say,
If Phœbus hides his face the second day.—*Poor Robin's Almanack.*

When Candlemas-day is come and gone,
The snow won't lie on a hot stone.

If Candlemas-day be fine and clear,
Corn and fruits will then be dear.

The German version of which is,

Wenn um Lichtmessen die Sonne scheint, kommt arges Wetter und Heunoth.

As long as the bird sings before Candlemas it will greet after it.

So the French,

Autant l'alouette chante avant la Chandeleur,
Autant elle se tait après.—*Yonne.*

And the German,

So lange die Lerche vor Lichtmess singt, so lange schweigt sie nach Lichtmess still.

La veille du Chandeleur
L'hiver se passe ou prend vigueur.

Cold.

At Candlemas
Cold comes to us.

So the Germans,
Lichtmess
Winter gewiss.

J'ouy le paresseux hyver,
Lequel disoit au laboureur :
Je ne manqueray d'arriver
Au plus tard à la Chandeleur.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

A la Chandeleur
Ou toutes bêtes sont en horreur.

A la Chandeleur
La grande douleur.—*Oise.*

Si l'hyver ne fait son devoir
En mois de Decembre et de Janvier,
Au plus tard il se fera voir
Dès la deuxième Février.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

The following French and German proverbs refer to animals as connected with this day.

Bear.

Selon les anciens se dit :
Si le Soleil clarement luit,
A la Chandeleur vous verrez
Qu' encore un Hyver vous aurez :
Pourtant gardez bien votre foin,
Car il vous sera de besoin :

Par cette règle se gouverne
L'ours, qui retourne en sa caverne.—BRAND.

Si le deuxième de Février
Le soleil apparait entier,
L'ors, estonné à la lumière,
Se va remettre en sa tanière :
Et l'homme ménager prend soin
De faire rasserer son foin :
Car l'hyver, tout ainsi que l'ours,
Séjourne aussi quarante jours.

A la Chandeleur
Grand froid, grande neige :
S'il fait beau, l'ours sort de la tanière
Fait trois tours
Et rentre pour quarante jours.

Si fait beau et luit Chandeleur
Six semaines se cache l'ours.

Sieht der Bär auf Lichtmess seinen Schatten, so kriecht er wieder auf vierzig Tage in die Höhle.

De la Madona de la Ceriola
Da la tana l'orso vien fora.

Badger.

Sonnt sich der Dachs in der Lichtmesswoche,
Geht auf vier Wochen er wieder zu Loche.—*Rhine.*

Fox.

Scheint um Lichtmess die Sonne dem Pfaffen auf den Altar, so muss der Fuchs wieder auf sechs Wochen in's Loch.

Der Fuchs ist weis':
Nach Lichtmess geht er nicht uber's Eis.

Wind.

When the wind's in the east on Candlemas-day,
There it will stick to the second of May.

Lengthening of the Days.

A la fête de la Chandeleur
Les jours croissent de plus d'une heure,
Et le froid pique avec douleur.

You should on Candlemas-day
Throw candles and candlestick away.

Agricultural Sayings.

In Esthonia the country people make this day a date from which to begin farming operations; hence the proverb,

In seven weeks the swine (must be driven out); in eight, the cow to the meadow; in ten, the plough (will be put into use).

A la Chandeleur, cesse de filer, mets ton rouet derrière la porte, et tire la charrue.—*Haut Rhin.*

On Candlemas-day if the thorns hang a drop,
You are sure of a good pea crop.

Sow beans in Candlemas Waddle:
i.e., Wane of the moon.—*Somerset.*

The farmer should have on Candlemas-day
Half his straw and half his hay.

Candlemas and Easter.

Lichtmess in Klee
Ostern im Schnee.

Custom in Belgium.

The people in the neighbourhood of Bruges believe that the fertility or sterility of the year can be foretold in the following manner. On Candlemas-day they drop the wax of a taper that has been blessed into a bowl of water. If it form little stars the year will be fruitful.

4. (St Blasius.)

A la fête de Saint Blaise
Le froid de l'hiver s'apaise :
S'il redouble, et s'il reprend,
Bien long temps après il se sent.

Per San Biag
On gran slavag—*Milan :*
i.e., On St Blaise's day there are many puddles.

San Biasio
La tera va al so asio—*Venetia :*
i.e., On St Blaise's day the ground becomes fit to cultivate.

5. (St Agatha.)

Rainy clouds on this day, say the Pyrenean peasants, foretell hailstorms in the summer ; whence they are called "mäire des prigouls."

St Agatha is rich in snow.—*Esthonia.*

A Sante Agate, si l'aigue course dins la bèlierete
Lou lach couale dins la chadierette—*Basses Alpes :*
i.e., A Sainte Agathe, si l'eau court dans la ruisseau,
Le lait coule dans la chaudière.

A Santo-Gatéto,
Vai t'en à ta vigneto,
Si l'y vas par travailla ; *i.e.*, pour travailler.
Vai té l'y par gousta ; *i.e.*, pour gouter.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Sème des oignons le jour ed 'Sainte Agathe,
Id' viendront gros comme el cul d'eine gate.—*Picardy.*

Le lendemain Saint Blaise
Souvent l'hiver s'apaise.

Prenez bien garde au lendemain
De Saint Blaise, s'il est serein,
Car sela presage une année
Toute fertile et fortunée,
S'il neige ou pleut, sera cherté,
S'il fait brouillard, mortalité,
S'il fait vent, nous verrons que mars
Fera voler son étendard. — *Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

6. (St Dorothea.)
Sanct Dorothee
Bringt den meisten Schnee.

8. (St John of Matha.)
In Belgium the few fine days which occur at this season are called "L'été de Saint Jean."

10. (St Scholastica.)
Fine weather on St Scholastica's day betokens a fine spring.—*Carinthia.*

If the eighteen last days of February be
Wet, and the first ten of March, you'll see
That the spring quarter and the summer too
Will prove too wet, and danger to ensue.

11. (St Severinus.)
Sanct Severin
Wirft den kalten Stein (ice) in dem Rhein:

Sant Gertrude (March 17) mit der Maus
Holt ihn wieder heraus.—*Cologne.*
See also St Catherine, November 25th.

12. (St Eulalia.)
Si le soleil rit le jour Sainte Eulalie
Il y aura cidre et pomme à folie.

L'soleil, le jour Sainte Eulalie,
S'il fait le tour de vos pommis,
Ayant leur branchis bien fleuries ; *i.e.*, covered with snow :
Il s' ra des pommes à pleine airie.—*Manche.*

12, 13, 14.

Mrs Grant, in her 'Superstitions of the Highlanders,' vol. ii. p. 17, says : "The Faoilteach, or three first days of February, serve many poetical purposes in the Highlands. They are said to have been *borrowed* for some purpose by February from January, who was bribed by February with three young sheep. These three days, by Highland reckoning, occur between the 11th and 15th of February; and it is accounted a most favourable prognostic for the ensuing year, that they should be as stormy as possible." See also March 29, Borrowing Days.

14. (St Valentine.)
San Valentin girlanda (see S. Paul, January 25).
Cinquanta di'l comanda—*Venetia :*
i.e., St Valentine's is a critical day—it influences the fifty following.

To St Valentine the spring is a neighbour.

Per San Valentin
L' inverna l'e al só fin.—*Milan.*

Da San Valentin
El giazzo tien su un gardelin—*Venetia:*
i.e., On St Valentine's day the ice will only bear a finch.
But, on the other hand, they say in Friuli,
On St Valentine's day our mill-wheels are all frozen.
St Valentine,
Set thy hopper—*i.e.*, seed-basket—by mine.
De San Valentin
Incomincia avegh' cüra de l' ortin—*Milan:*
i.e., On St Valentine's day begin to pay attention to the garden.

20-28.

The nights of this part of February are called in Sweden "Steel Nights," on account of their cutting severity.—*Inwards.*

21. (St Felix.)
Felix Bischof zeiget an
Was wir vierzig Tage für Wetter ha'n.—*Holstein.*

22. (St Peter's chair at Antioch.)
S'il gèle le nuit avant la chaire de Saint Pierre, le froid ne cessera pas avant quarante jours.—*Belgium.*

S'il ne gèle pas ce jour, il ne gèlera plus du tout.

24. (St Matthias.)
Saint Mathias, le replâtreur, sans neige ne pourrait faire.
Sanct Mathias
Brikt das Ys:
Findt he keins
Maakt he eins.—*Platt Deutsch.*

Sanct Mathijs
Werpt eenen heeten Steen in 't Ijs.—*Limburg.*

Saint Mathias
Casse les glaces.

On this day St Matthias either opens the ground (by thaw) or locks it up (by frost).—*Styria.*

"If St Matthias does not break the ice," the Bohemians say, "he has lost his axe, and the ice will remain unbroken till St Joseph comes (March 19.)"

San Matias
Marzo al quinto dia, (the day on which this festival is kept in Spain)
Entra el sol por las umbrias
Y calienta las aguas frias.

i.e., On S. Matthias's day, the 5th of March, the sun penetrates shady places, and makes the icy water warm.

El vento de San Matia
Dura 'na quarantia.—*Venetia.*

St Matthy
All the year goes by:

"Because in Leap Year the supernumerary days are then intercalated."—RAY.

St Matthie
Sends sap into the tree.

St Matthias,
Sow both leaf and grass.

28. (St Romanus.)
Romanus hell und klar
Bedeut't ein gutes Jahr.—*Swabia.*

Le dernier jour de Février doit laisser le fossé comble.—*Gers.*

MARCH.

Changeable.

March many weathers.

The Italians have several proverbs relating to the uncertainty of the weather in this month, *e.g.*—

a, Marzu passu—*Sicily :*

i.e., Foolish March.

b. Marz l'a comprà el tabar a sò papa
E dòp tri di el ghe l'a impegna—*Milan :*

i.e., March bought a cloak from his father, and pawned it in three days after. (This proverb seems to have some reference to "Borrowing days.")

c. Marz l'è fiö d'ona baltrocca,
Ora el piöv, ora el fiocca,
Ora el tira vent, ora el fa bèl temp :

i.e., March is nobody's child : he rains one day and snows another ; has one day stormy and the next fine.

Eguzquia eta curia
Urri egural dia—*Basque :*

i.e., Sun and rain is March's weather.

The Venetians use the word "marzeggiare" of weather consisting of alternate rain and sunshine.

Cold.

March sun
Lets snow stand on a stone.

The sun in March raises but does not melt.

A March sun sticks like a lock of wool.

Hot.

March many weathers rained and blowed,
But March grass never did good.

So the Germans say,

Märzengrün
Ist nicht schön.

In Illyria there is a proverb, "Better to be bitten by a snake than to feel the sun in March."

Dry.

A peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom.

"A dry March makes the clay lands of England bear abundant crops of corn: consequently, if in this month the weather is such as to make the highways dusty, the country will then be benefited to the amount of 'a king's ransom.'" —*Denham.*

March dust to be sold,
Worth ransom of gold.

The German version of which is,

Ein Loth Märzen Staub ist einen Ducaten werth.

A dry March never begs its bread.

With which corresponds the French saying,

Mars sec ne cherche pas son pain.—*Somme.*

A March without water
Dowers the hind's daughter.

So the French,

Mars halleux
Marie la fille du laboureux.

Wet.

A wet March makes a sad harvest.

Pluie de Mars ne profite pas.—*Bouches-du-Rhône.*

Feuchter fauler März
Ist der Bauern Schmerz.

March rain spoils more than clothes.

March water is worse than a stain in cloth; so,

Eau du mois de Mars
Est pire que tache au drap.—*Basses Pyrénées.*

Snow.

Neige de Mars
Vaut un parc.—*Haut Loire.*

Wind.

March wind
Wakes the ether (*i.e.*, adder) and blooms the whin.
—*Denham.*

Compare 'Julius Cæsar,' Act III., Scene I. " "

BRUTUS *loq.* "It is the bright day that brings forth
the adder;
And that craves wary walking."

March dust and March win'
Bleaches as well as simmer's sin.—*Scotland.*

Thunder.

Si foëte de l'hernu en Mars
Os pouvons dire hélas !—*Picardy.*

When it thunders in March it brings sorrow.

Thunder in March signifieth that same year great winds, plenty of corne, and debate amongst people.—*Book of Knowledge.*

En Mars quand il tonne
Chacun s'en étonne.

When March thunders, tools and arms get rusty.

Quan in Mars tonno
L'annado es bono.—*Gard.*

Märzendonner macht fruchtbar.

General.

March yeans the lammie
And buds the thorn:
And blows through the flint
Of an ox's horn.—*Northumberland.*

March hack ham,
Comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb.

Quind Mars inte comme un mouton
I wide comme un lion.—*Nord.*

March comes in with an adder's head, but goes out like a peacock's tail.

A la commencement ou à la fin
Mars a son venin.

So the German,

Zu Aufang oder zu End'
Der März seine Gifte send't.

Si le mois de Mars trouve les fossés pleins, il les teche:
S'il les trouve vides, il faut qu'il les remplisse.—*Brittany.*

He who freely lops in March will get his lap full of fruit.

March birds are best.

Bonne eu mauvaise poirette
Il faut que Mars la trouve faite.

In March kill crow, pie, and cadow (jackdaw),
Rook, buzzard, and raven:
Or else go desire them
To seek a new haven.—*Denham.*

March, April, and May.

Märzenbluth ist nicht gut:
Aprilenbluth ist halb gut:
Maienbluth ist ganz gut:

March winds and April showers
Being forth May flowers,
So the French say,
Mars venteux, Avril pluvieux,
Font le Mai gai et gracieux.
The Germans,
Märzenwind und Aprilen Regen
Verheissen im Mai grossen Segen,
The Spanish,
Marzo ventoso y Abril aguanoso
Sacan à Mayo hermoso:
i.e., A windy March and a showery April make a fine May.

Rosée de Mai, grésil de Mars, et pluie d'Avril valent mieux que le chariot David.—*Côte d'Or.*

En Mai rosée, en Mars grésil,
Pluie abondante au mois d'Avril,
Le laboureur est content plus
Que ne feroit cinq cent écus.

Mars aride, Avril humide,
Mai un peu froid et venteux
Dénotent l'an don et plantureux,

So the German proverb,

Trockner März, nasser April, kühler Mai,
Füllt Scheuer, Keller, und bringt viel Heu.

The Italian,

Marz polverent, Avril piöent, Mas la so sesu,
Empienes el car del re Salamú :

i.e., A dusty March, a showery April, and a seasonable May, would fill King Solomon's chariot.

March and April.

Marz söt e April bagnat,
Beat el paisà che l'à seminat :

i.e., If March be dry and April showery, happy the husbandman who has finished sowing.

A frosty winter and a dusty March, and a rain about April,
Another about the Lammas time when the corn begins to fill,
Is weel worth a pleuch (plough) o' gowd, and a' her pins theretill.

"These lines are popularly understood to be the composition of no less distinguished a person than George Buchanan. He was once asked, so the story runs, what could buy a plough of gold, and immediately answered as above."—*Chambers's Popular Rhymes of Scotland.*

March flings, April fleyes :

The French equivalent of which is,

Mars martelle, Avril coutelle :

In allusion to the boisterous winds of March, and the cutting blasts of April.

Hell und heiter der März ganz,
Der April am Schwanz:

i.e., If March be clear and warm throughout, April will be so at its end.

Quand Mars fait Avril, Avril fait Mars.

Quant gelées en Mars, tant de roussées en Avril.

March and May.

March wind and May sun
Make clothes white and maids dun.

If they wad drink nettles in March
And eat muggins in May,
Sae many braw maidens
Wadna gang to the clay.

"The funeral of a young woman who had died of consumption was passing along the highroad on the margin of the Firth of Clyde, above Port Glasgow, when a mermaid raised her head from the water, and in slow admonitory tones uttered the above-quoted lines. As may be readily surmised, muggons or mugwort (also called southernwood) and a decoction of nettles, form a favourite prescription for consumption among the common people."—*Popular Rhymes of Scotland.*

A peck of March dust and a shower in May
Makes the corn green and the fields gay.

So many mists as in March you see,
So many frosts in May will be.

Se Marz no l'incodega
Mag no sega:

i.e., If March does not plant, May will not cut (or mow).

March, Whitsunday, and August.

So viel thau in März, so viel Reif um Pfingsten, so viel Nebel in August.

March and Summer.

So viel Nebel im März, so viel Regen im Sommer.

DAYS IN MARCH.

1. (SS. David, Albinus, Eudoxia.)

Upon St David's day
Put oats and barley in the clay.

On the first of March
The crows begin to search.

David and Chad (March 2d),
Sow peas, good or bad.

First comes David, then comes Chad,
And then comes Winnold (March 3) as though he were mad:

In allusion to the prevalence of windy weather at this season. A Norfolk correspondent writing to 'Hone's Every Day Book,' vol. ii., *sub* March 3, says: "Whether St Winwalœ (Abbot of Landeveneck, near Brest) was remarkable for the irascibility of his temper, I cannot say: yet it rarely happens when the first few days of March are not attended with such boisterous and tempestuous weather, generally from the north, that he might not improperly be called 'the Norfolk Boreas.'"

Quand il pleut pour la Saint Aubin,
Il n'y a ni paille ni foin.—*Charente.*

A'la Saint Aubin
On tond d'ordinaire le mouton :
Mais si vous voulez m'en croire,
Tondez-le à la Saint Gregoire (March 12).—*Eure.*

The quarter in which the wind lies on this day is especially observed in Russia, hence the saying, "Wherever the wind is on St Eudoxia's day, there it will remain during the spring and summer."

10. (The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.)

Wie's Wetter ist auf die vierzig Ritter, so bleibt es vierzig Tage lang.

And so the Italian,

Se piov el de dei quaranta Marter.
Per quaranta dè ga n'em ü sguater—*Bergamo :*

i.e., If it rains on the day of the 40 Martyrs, it will rain for 40 days (and there is the same proverb in Belgium, Russia, and Bohemia).

Wie die Vierzig, so Peterstag (June 29).

Mists or hoar-frosts on the 10th of March betoken a plentiful year, but not without some diseases. —*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

12. (St Gregory the Great.)

In the Tyrol, on this day, the peasants climb trees and listen to the wind. Should it go down, they say "We must mend our gloves, for there will be cold weather."

Se venta el di de San Gregorio, venta per quaranta di.
Geht um Gregori der Wind,
Geht er, bis Sanct Jorgen (April 24) kimmt.
Sanct Gregor und das Kreuze (Sept. 14) macht.
Den Tag so lang gleich als die Nacht.

A San Gregorio Papa
La rundane le passa l'acqua—*Bergamo :*
i.e., On the day of St Gregory, the Pope, the swallow crosses the water (arrives in Europe).

17. (St Gertrude of Nivelles.)
Gehen die Kühe Sanct Gertrudis nicht in Klee,
So gehen sie noch in Schnee.—*Eifel.*

Gertrude nützt dem Gartner fein,
Wenn sie zeigt mit Sonnenschein.

Sainte Gertrude, lorsqu'elle est éclairée par la pleine lune, protége les ensemencements du jour.

19. St Joseph (husband of the B. V. M.)
St Joseph is supposed, as well as St Gertrude, to watch carefully over plants sown on his day.

In the north of Italy winter is now considered to be at an end. Thus—
Per San Giüsep
Le rundane le passa'l tëc :
Passa o no passa, el frèd el ne lassa—*Bergamo :*
i.e., On St Joseph's day the swallows fly over the roofs : whether they fly or not, the cold weather has gone.

A San Giüsep
Se mèt via'l scoldalèt—*Milan* :
i.e., On St Joseph's day away with the warming-pan.

21. (St Benedict.)
St Benedick : sow thy peas or keep them in the rick.

25. (Annunciation of the B. V. M.),
Called in Belgium "D'ons Lieve Vrouw Beklyving,"—*i.e.*,

Notre Dame de la prospérité: because anything transplanted on this day easily takes root, and seed sown prospers. It is also believed that the year will be fruitful if before sunrise the sky is clear and the stars shine brightly.

S'il gèle le 25 Mars
Les prairies diminuent d'un quart.—*Loir et Cher.*

Se a la madona de Marz vèn giò la brina,
No la fa altra ruina—*Milan*:

i.e., If there be hoar-frost on the morning of the Annunciation it will do no harm.

S'il pleut le jour de la Bonne Dame, il pleut à toutes ses fêtes.—*Allier.*

A Notre Dame de Mars,
Si le soleil fait le luzer—*i.e.*, is not bright—
Il y a quarante jours d'hiver.—*Dordogne.*

Mariä Verkundigung
Die Schwalben kommen wiederum.

Mariekchen pustet dat Licht uth, Michel steckt et wedder an:

i.e., St Mary blows out the candle, St Michael (Sept. 29) lights it again.

Farm-servants in Germany generally leave off candles in the evening at Lady Day, and begin to use them again at Michaelmas.

So, too, the Italian proverb,

A la Madòna de Marz se scoven,
A la Madòna de Setember se troven—*Milan:*

i.e., At S. Mary's feast in March we put them (candles) on one side: at her festival in September (Sept. 8, Nativity B.V.M.) we take them up again.

29, 30, 31, Borrowing Days.

The warst blast comes on the Borrowing Days.—*Scotland.*

a. March borrowed from April
Three days, and they were ill:
The one was sleet, the other was snow,
The third was the worst that e'er did blow.

b. March borrowed of April
Three days, and they were ill:
They killed three lambs that were playing on a hill.

c. March borrows of April
Three days, and they are ill:
April returns them back again,
Three days, and they are rain.

The Scotch version runs as follows;—

d. March said to Aperill,
"I see three hogs upon a hill;
And if you'll lend me dayis three,
I'll find a way to gar them dee!"
The first o' them was wind and weet;
The second o' them was snaw and sleet;
The third o' them was sic a freeze
It froze the bird's feet to the trees.—
When the three days were past and gane,
The three silly hogs came hirplin hame.

Dr Jamieson, in his Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language, Edin. 1808, vol. i., "Borrowing Days," remarks: "These days being generally stormy, our forefathers have endeavoured to account for this circumstance, by pretending that March borrowed them from April, that he might extend his power so much longer. Those who are much

addicted to superstition will neither borrow nor lend on any of these days. If any should propose to borrow from them they would consider it as an evidence that the person wished to employ the article borrowed for the purpose of witchcraft against the lenders. Some of the vulgar imagine that these days received their designation from the conduct of the Israelites in borrowing the property of the Egyptians. This extravagant idea must have originated, partly from the name, and partly from the circumstance of these days nearly corresponding to the time when the Israelites left Egypt, which was on the 14th day of the month Abib or Nisan, including part of our March and April. I know not whether our Western Magi suppose that the inclemency of the Borrowing Days has any relation to the storm which proved so fatal to the Egyptians."

Traces of the same superstition are to be found in Andalusia, where there is a story among the country people to the following effect: A shepherd once upon a time promised March a lamb if he, *i.e.*, the month, would favour the flock with propitious weather. March agreed, and conscientiously acted up to his part of the agreement. But when, just before the end of the month, he asked for his lamb, the shepherd bethinking himself that only three days were left, and that his flock was in fine condition, refused to stand by his promise. "You won't give me my right, won't you?" said March; "then know this, that in the three days I have left, and in three more that my gossip April will lend me, all your sheep shall die." And accordingly such fearful weather ensued that the whole flock perished. (Das Wetter im Sprichwort.)

So, too, in the south of France, the story is almost identical, viz.:—

A rich man said on March 30,
"Mars et Marsilloun qu'é passat,
Ni braou, ni baque, nou m'en a coustat.

Abriou, preste m'en un preste m'en dus, preste m'en, trés, et un qu'en é que haran quonaté,
Toutos l'ac haram espernobaté:
i.e., J'ai passé Mars et Marsillon,
Sans qu'il m'en ait coûté ni vache ni taurillon.
(March heard this and said to April)
Avril prête-m'en un (jour), prête-m'en deux, prête-m'en trois.
Et un que j'ai, ça fera quatre, et nous mettrons tout son bétail aux abois.—*Hautes Pyrénées.*

See also on February 11-15.

Ce que Mars couve on l'sait toujours
Après son trente-unième jour.—*Manche.*

LENT, EASTER, WHITSUNTIDE, ETC.

Shrove Tuesday.

As the weather is on Shrove Tuesday, so will it be to the end of Lent.

S'il pleut le jour de carnaval, la terre est altérée toute l'année.—*Loire.*

Quand il pleut pour le mardi gras, il y a de l'huile pour la salade.

Quand au carnaval la neige couvre la terre, à Pâques celle-ci sera couverte de verdure.—*Haut Rhin.*

So much as the sun shineth on Shrove Tuesday, the like will shine every day in Lent.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

Ist die Fastnacht klar und hell
Fährt man den Pflug auf'n Acker schnell.

Thunder on Shrove Tuesday foretells wind, store of fruit and plenty.

Lune quand tu verras
Nouvelle le mardi gras,
Force tonnerre tu entendras.

"If the wind blows on the night of Shrove Tuesday, there will be deaths among the learned, and many fish will die in the summer."—*Brand.*

Whoever doth plant or sow on Shrove Tuesday, it will always remain green.

Le soir du mardi gras, faut danser sur les fumiers pour avoir des navets.

Lent and Ash Wednesday.

Salmon and sermon have their season in Lent.

De Carême haute,
De froid n'aura faute.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Trockene fasten, gutes Jahr.

Wie das Wetter an Aschermittwoch ist, so soll's die ganze Fasten sein.

Wenn's nach Fastnacht lange Eiszapfen giebt, wird der Flachs schön lang.

Wenn's an Aschermittwoch schneit, schneit es in demselben Jahr 40 Mal.

Wherever the wind is on Ash Wednesday, it continues there during the whole of Lent.

Le plus fort vent des jours de Bordes,
Le plus souvent tout l'an déborde.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Fifth Sunday in Lent: or Passion Sunday.

Ist's um Judica feucht,
Werden die Kornboden leicht—*Einsiedler Kalender:*

Passion Sunday is called "Judica," because of the Introit used on that day from the 43d Psalm, "Judica me, Deus," etc.

Le vent reste quarante jours où il se trouve placé le dimanche de la Passion.—*Cher.*

Palm Sunday.

Quand il pleut le jour des Rameaux,
Il pleut à la fenaison et à la moisson.—*Lot.*

"If on Palm Sunday there be rain, that betokeneth to goodness: if it thunder on that day, then it signifieth a merry year and death of great men."—*Husbandman's Practice.*

But,

Ist Palmsonntag hell und klar
So giebt's ein gut und fruchtbar Jahr.
Schneit's am Palmssonntag in die Palmen,
Schneit's später in die Garben.—*Tyrol.*

From whatever quarter the wind blows on Palm Sunday, it will continue to blow from the same quarter for the most part during the ensuing summer.

This is a very prevalent belief in France. So we find,

Le vent qui souffle le jour des Rameaux est le vent dominant de l'année.

Le vent qui mène la bannière,
Mène la moissonière—*Haute Loire:*

i. e., The wind which blows on Palm Sunday will prevail throughout the year.

Si le jour des Rameaux
Le vent vient du Levant,
On dit qu'il vient des quatre boisseaux.—*Marne.*

Si, pendant l'office du jour des Rameaux, le vent est bas, c'est signe que le beurre ne sera pas cher: s'il est haut, c'est signe que le prix en sera élevé.—*Sarthe.*

Le jour des Rameaux, quand le coq est amant, année tendre.

Le propre jour des Rameaux
Seme oignons et porreaux.

Holy Week.

Semaine sainte mouilleé
Donne terre altérée.—*Ille et Vilaine.*

Pilatus wandert nicht aus der Kirche, er richtet zuvor einen Lärm an.
Said of showery weather during this week.

Maundy-Thursday.

La gelée du Jeudi Saint
Gêle le sarrasin,
La gelée du Vendredi Saint
Gêle le pain et le vin.—*Ain.*

Good Friday.

If there be rain on Good Friday, every drop should be scratched out of the ground.—*Limburg.*

S'il pleut le Vendredi Saint, toute la pluie de l'année ne servira à rien.

S'il pleut le Vendredi Saint, la gelée n'a plus de pouvoir.

A wet Good Friday makes a thirsty year.—*Bohemia.*

S'il gêle le Vendredi Saint, les autres gelées de l'année sont sans effet.

Le vent qui souffle le Vendredi Saint durera toute l'année.

It is good, say the Belgians, to have an east wind on this day, better still a north-east; but a wind from the south-east brings bad luck.

La terre ne doit point être ouverte le Vendredi Saint.

Pour que les rats ne mangent pas le raisin
Il faut tailler la treille le Vendredi Saint.—*Ain.*

Easter Eve.

Le vent qui souffle pendant la bénédiction de l'eau, le samedi saint, durera six semaines.—*Pas de Calais.*

Regnet es em Tag vor Ostern, giebt es viel Regen zwischen Ostern und Pfingsten.

Easter-day.

If the sun shine clear on Easter-day or Palm Sunday, or both of them, there will be fine weather, plenty of corn and other fruits of the earth.

If the sun shines on Easter-day, it will shine on Whitsun-day.

Wenn auf Ostertag die Sonn'hell scheint,
Der Bauer bei seinem Korn auf dem Speicher weint:
Ist Ostertag ähnlich der Nacht,
Er in die Fäuste lacht.—*Eifel.*

Regnet es auf Ostertag' eine Thrän',
Dann wird das Korn bis in die Sichel vergeh'n.

A good deal of rain on Easter-day
Gives a crop of good corn, but little good hay.

Pâques pluvieuses — souvent fromenteuses. — *Ardennes.*

But,

Osterregen bringt magere Kost,
Ostersonne, fette und reichliche.—*Austria.*

Regnet's am Ostertag', so regnet's alle Sonntag'.

Depuis Pâques au leu,
Depuis Noël au feu.

When Easter falls in our Lady's lap (March 25),
Then let England beware of a rap. — See on April 23.

Pâques pluvieux—Saint Jean (June 24) farineux. —*Charente.*

Entre Pâques et la Pentecoste
La dessert n'est qu'une croûte.

Pâques en Avril
Rendent heureuses mouches et brebis.—*Ardennes.*

But, on the other hand,

Pâques en Avril,
Mort à femmes et à brebis.—*Nord.*

Rogation Days.

S'il fait beau aux Rogations,
Le premier jour il fera beau pour les fauchaisons,
Le deuxième jour pour les moissons,
Le troisième jour pour les vendanges.—*Morbihan.*

S'il fait pleut aux Rogations,
Le premier jour il pleuvra pendant le fenaison,
Le deuxième jour pendant la moisson,
Le troisième jour pendant les vendanges.—*Haute Saône.*

Haricots de Rogations
Rendent à foison.—*Rhone.*

Si l'on sème son chanvre pendant les Rogations,
On le récolte à grenouillons ; *i.e.*, à genoux.—*Haute Saône.*

Ascension-day.

If it rain on Ascension-day ever so little, it foretells scarcity and murrain: but if it be fair, then the contrary, and fine weather to Michaelmas.

Ascensionis vel modicæ pluviæ pabuli inopiam, serenitas copiam signant.—*Bucelinus.*

Regen am Himmelfahrtstage zeigt schlechte Heuernte an.

Se'l piöv ol de del Assenziü
Töt l'e bel e gnent l'e bu—*Bergamo:*
i.e., If it rain on Ascension-day, everything looks well, but is just the contrary.

S'il pleut le jour de l'Ascension
C'est comme du poison.—*Indre.*

Pluie le jour de l'Ascension,
Les blés dépérissent jusqu'à la moisson.—*Morbihan.*

Se piove per l'Ascensione
Va ogni cosa in perdizione—*Tuscany:*
i.e., If it rains on Ascension-day, everything will go to rack and ruin.

Wenn es am Himmelfahrtstage regnet, hör es vierzig Tage lang nicht auf.
So the Italians say,
Se il piöv ol de del Assenziu, per quaranta de no se va senza.

A l'Ascension
Le dernier frisson.—*Jura.*

Der Bauer nach der alten Art
Trägt den Pelz bis Himmelfahrt:
Und thut ihm dann der Bauch noch weh,
So trägt er ihn bis Bartelme.

Fin al giorno dei Galilei
No te spogiar dei pani mei—*Venice:*
i.e., Up to Ascension-day I shall not take off my clothes.

Eve of Whitsun-day.

Le vent reste six semaines où il se trouve la veille de la Pentecôte, pendant l'eau bénite.—*Somme.*

Whitsun-day.

If it happens to rain on Whitsun-day, much thunder and lightning follow: blasts, mildews, &c.: but, if it be fair, great plenty of corn.

Pentecoste pluvieuse
N'est pas avantageuse.—*Morbihan.*

Pentecostis pluviæ nil boni signant.—*Bucelinus.*

Se piöv el de d'la Pentecoste
Töte i entrade no iè noste—*Bergamo:*
i.e., If it rains at Pentecost, we shall be losers.

But, on the other hand,
Pfingstregen
Reicher Weinsegen.

Nasse Pfingsten, fette Weihnachten;
Helle Pfingsten, dürre Weihnachten.

Diou nous gardé dé las calous de Pentacousta
Et das aïgaches (rosées) de Saint Jan.—*Hérault.*

C'est, dit on, à la Pentecoste,
Que qui trop mange, cher lui coste.

Pentecoste frèzes rouges ou les laboureurs estonnent.

A la Pentecoste roses sont,
A la Saint Jehan s'en vont.

Whitsun Monday.

Regnet's Pfingsten Montag
So regnet's sieben Sonntag.

Eve of Trinity Sunday.

Vent du bas la veille de la Trinité;
Il y est les deux tiers de l'annéè.—*Aisne.*

Trinity Sunday

S'il pleut le jour de la Trinité,
Il pleut tous les dimanches de l'année.—*Doubs.*

Wenn's am heiligen Dreifaltigkeitssontag regnet, so regnet's sechs oder zwölf Sonntag im Sommer. —*Tyrol.*

Quand il pleut à la Trinité,
Il pleut six semaines sans s'arrêter.

S'il pleut à la Trinité,
Il faut deux liens sur trois pour le blé.—*Haut Rhin.*

Pluie de la Trinité
Fait dépérir les blés
Jusqu'au grenier.—*Côte d'Or.*

Feast of Corpus Christi (the Thursday following Trinity Sunday).

Wie Fronleichnam, so viele Tage nachher.

If the Holy Sacrament day of our Lord be fine, then it is good, and causes fruit, plenty, and the lambs to die.—*Husbandman's Practice.*

Ist es Corporis Christi Klar
Bringt es uns ein gutes Jahr.

Corporis Christi serenitas laudatur.—*Bucelinus.*

S'il pleut sur la chapelle (Fête Dieu).
Il pleut sur la javelle.—*Puy de Drôme.*

Tel sacre (Fête Dieu).
Tel battre.—*Mayenne.*

Fällt auf die Fronleichnamsprozession Regen, regnets vierzig Tage lang.

A la Saint Sacrement
L'épi au froment.—*Pluquet.*

APRIL.

Changeable.

April weather,
Rain and sunshine, both together.

Avril le doux,
Quand il se fâche, le pire des tous.—*Pluquet.*

Avril
Thut was er will.

Cold.

A cold April
The barn will fill.

So the French,

Froid Avril donne pain et vin.

The Italian,

Brina d'Avril
Empienes la baril.

The Spanish,

Abril frio
Pan y vino

But they say in North Italy,

Se in April se giazza:
La vit la se strazza:

i.e., If it freezes in April, the vines will be ruined.

And on the Rhine,

Heller Mondeschein im April schadet der Baumblüte:

i.e., A clear moon in April (a sign of cold nights) injures the blossoms.

La granissarde d'Avril
Tue la brebis et l'agneau
Et la bergère sans manteau.—*Dordogne.*

A sharp April kills the pig.

April wears a white hat:
Or,
It is not April without a frosty crown.
With which may be compared,
I n'est si gentil moes d'Avri'
Qui n'aye sin capieu de grési'.—*Picardy.*

L'ouaille (brebis) et l'abeille
En Avril ont leur deuil.

Cold and Wet.

Aprilis kalt und nass
Füllt Scheuer und Fass.

Ist der April kalt und nass
Dann wachst das Gras.—*Westphalia.*

Warm and Wet.

Warmer Aprilenregen
Grosser Segen.

Dry.

Ein trockner April
Ist der Bauern Will'.—*Munster.*

Wet.

Der dürre April
Ist nicht der Bauern Will',
Sondern das Prillenregen
Ist ihnen gelegen.

April showers bring milk and meal.

In April pioa, pioa,
Che farem grossa la coa—*Milan :*
i.e., In April rain, rain, to make large sheaves.

Nasser April
Verspricht der Früchte viel.

Pluye d'Avril vaut le chard de David.

Avril a trente jours ;
S'il en pleuvait trente un
Cela ne ferait tort à aucun.—*Bouches-du-Rhône.*

Exactly similar is the Italian,
Avril al na trenta, sel ne piöes trentü,
Nol fares mal a nisü.

In April Dove's flood
Is worth a king's good.

"Dove is a river parting Staffordshire and Derbyshire, which, when it overflows its banks in April, is the Nilus of Staffordshire, much battling the meadows thereof."—RAY.

April showers
Bring summer flowers.

The bee doth love the sweetest flower,
So doth the blossom the April shower.

Abril
Aguas mil.—*Spain.*

April, Aprilet,
Töc i dè on sguazzet—*Bergamo :*
i.e., April, April, drip drip, every day.

An April flood
Carries away the frog and his brood.

Answering to the German,
Aprilenflut
Führt den Frosch weg mit seiner Brut.

Windy.

Avril venteux
Rend la laboureur joyeux.—*Hautes Alpes.*

April with his hack and his bill
Plants a flower on every hill.

If April swell, ware swine!

Thunder.

Thunder in April signifieth that same year to be fruitful and merry, with the death of wicked men.—*Book of Knowledge.*

When April blows his horn,
It's good for both hay and corn.

Because thunder in April is usually accompanied by rain. But Mr Denham takes this proverb with reference to wind, saying,

"When in this month winds prevail, it is good for both meadow and tillage lands."

En Avril s'il tonne
C'est nouvelle bonne.—*Maine-et-Loire.*

Quand il tonne en Avril
Le laboureur se réjouit.

So es im April donnert, hat man keine Reife mehr zu befurchten.

General.

Avril entrant comme un agneau,
S'en retourne comme un taureau.—*Dise.*

Sweet as an April meadow.

April cling
Good for nothing.

Bourgeon qui pousse en Avril
Met peu de vins au baril.—*Côte d'Or.*

As April is not generally a hot month, the Venetians call it,

April dal dolce dormir.

Which may be compared with the Spanish proverb,

Las mañanicas de Abril buenas son de dormir:
i.e., The early mornings of April are good for sleeping.

And so the Milanese say,

In Aprilèt
L'è 'on bel sta im lèt:
i.e., In April it is a fine time to lie in bed.

You must look for grass in April on the top of an oak.

"Because the grass seldom springs well before the oak begins to put forth."—RAY.

S'il n'y avait ni seigneurs ni mois d'Avril sur terre,
Il n'y aurait jamais ni famine ni guerre.—*Hautes Alpes.*

April, May, June, and July.

Auf trockenen April folgt ein nasser Juni oder Juli und nasser Sommer.

April and May.

Abril plabigna
Mai ne cessa—*Gironde:*
i.e., If it rains in April, it will rain incessantly in May.

An April shower and a May sun
Will make cloth white and maids dun.

April fa'l fior e Mag el g'a l'onor :
i.e., April makes the flowers and May has the credit of it.

Betwixt April and May if there be rain,
'Tis worth more than oxen or wain.

Exactly corresponding is the Spanish,
Mas vale un agua entre Abril y Mayo que los buyes y el carro.

Entre Abril y Mayo
Haz harina para todo el año :
i.e., Between April and May make flour for the whole year.

Avril pluvieux, Mai gai et venteux,
Annoncent an fécond et mème gracieux.—*Oise.*

En Avril nuée, en Mai rosée.—*Haute Saône.*

Avril et Mai de l'année
Font tous seuls la destinée.—*Aube.*

April and May are the keys of the year.

So the Spanish
Abril y Mayo, llave de todo el año.

And the Italian,
Abril e Magg în la ciav de tüt l'an.

Avril pleut aux hommes, Mai pleut aux bêtes.—*Haute Saône.*
Because rain in April is good for corn, in May for grass.

Pan para Mayo, leñe para Abril :
i.e., Bread or corn for May, wood for April.

Wine.

Le vin d'Avril est un vin de Dieu :
Le vin de Mai est un vin de laquais.—*Dordogne.*

Moon.

In France, the Moon which follows Easter is supposed to have a great influence on the weather. It is called "La lune rousse," or "The Red Moon."

Quand la lune rousse est passée,
On ne craint plus la gelée.—*Charente.*

La lune rousse est maligne comme les individus de sa couleur.—*Nièvre.*

Tant que dure la lune rousse.
Les fruits sont sujets à fortune.—*Calvados.*

Quand la lune rousse commence comme un lion,
Elle finit comme un mouton ;
Quand elle commence comme un mouton,
Elle finit comme un dragon.—*Jura.*

Lune rousse sur la semence
D'ordinaire un grand influence ;
La lune rousse et le roux vent
Cassent les bouteilles souvent.—*Oise.*

Récolte point n'est arrivée
Que lune rousse ne soit passé.—*Haute Loire.*

La lune rousse est la lune des abîmes.—*Drôme.*

La lune rousse entrant un mercredi annonce une année désastreuse, surtout pour la vigne. — *Hérault.*

La lune rousse ôte tout ou donne tout.—*Jura.*
See, too, on St Mark's Day (April 25).

DAYS IN APRIL.

1. If it thunders on All Fools' Day,
It brings good crops of corn and hay.

1, 2, 3. If the first three days of April be foggy, there will be a flood in June.

Tre Aprilanti
Quaranta somiglianti—*Venice:*
i. e., As the weather is on the first three days of April, so will it be for the next forty days.

3. (St Rosamond.)
Bringt Rosamunde Sturm und Wind,
So ist Sibylle (April 29) uns gelind.

The third of April comes with the cuckoo and the nightingale.

4. (St Ambrose.)
J'ay entendu dire toujours,
Quand Saint Ambrose fait neiger,
Que nous sommes en grand danger,
D'avoir du froid plus de huit jours.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

5. St Theodula (in the Calendar of the Greek Church).

Theodula brings us spring breezes.—*Russia.*

6. (Old Lady-day.)

On Lady-day the later,
The cold comes over the water.

10. (St Ezechiel.)

Sanct Ezechiel's Tag, der hunderste Tag nach Neujahr, ist zurn Leinsäen der beste Tag, wie auch der Tag Sanct Georg's (April 23).

23. (St George.)

Quand Sant Giorg el ven in Pasqua
Per el mond gh'e gran borasca—*Milan :*

i. e., When Easter falls on St George's day, there will be great trouble throughout the world.

Strangely enough, this happened in 1848, the year of revolutions.

Hat vor Georgi der Regen gemangelt, Kommt nachher desto mehr.

Aqua de San Giorg—carestia de fich—*Lombardy :*

i. e., Rain on St George's day brings a lack of figs.

Hohes Korn zu Sanct Gürgen
Wird Gütes verbürgen.—*Austria.*

Auf Sanct Gürgen
Soll man die Kuh von der Weide schürgen.

Because now meadows are laid down for hay.

St George feeds the cow, St Nicholas (May 9) the horse, St Elias (July 20) begins the harvest; the Blessed Mother of God (Sept. 8) ends it;

and St Mary the Intercessor (Oct. 1.) clears the field.—*Russia.*

A la Saint George
Couvre ton orge ;
A Saint Robert (April 29).
Qu'il soit couvert :
A Saint Marc (April 25).
Il serait trop tard.—*Aveyron.*

Georget, Market, Croisset (May 3), Urbanet (May 24)
Sont quatre méchants guerchonets (garçons) :
Et encore Philippet (St Philip of Neri, May 26)
S'il en mêldit.—*Picardy.*

Georget, Marquet, Phalet (St Vitalis, April 28)
Sont trois casseurs de gobelets—*Aube :*

i.e., If it rain during these three days, there will be a bad vintage.

S'il pleut à la Saint George
Il n'y a guigne ni orge.—*Sarthe.*

S. George cries "Goe!"
S. Mark cries "Hoe!"

Quand il gêle les jours de Saint George, Saint Marc, et Saint Robert, c'est signe que la récolte sera mauvaise.—*Corrèze.*

24. (Eve of St Mark.)

In sa vigilia de Sanctu Marcu si faghet abbitta,
Abbundantia de figu cabidannitta—*Sardinia :*

i.e., If it drizzle on St Mark's Eve, there will be abundance of figs.

25. (St Mark.)
To smell of April and May
Black Cross Day.

S. Mark's Day was so called from the black covers of the crosses and relics in the processions of the Great Litany, used at Rome on this day, and instituted by St Gregory the Great, A.D. 590, on occasion of a pestilence. It was received in this country by the Council of Cloveshoe, A.D. 747.

Quand il pleut le jour Saint Marc
Il ne faut ni pouque ni sac.

So lange die Frosche vor Marti schrei'n
Müssen sie nachher stille sein.—*Rhine.*

Les chevaliers de la lune rousse, hélas!
Saint Marc, Saint Eutrope (April 30), Saint Philippe (May 1), Saint Nicolas (May 9)
Nous ménent de vie à trépas:
Mais le chevalier S. Loup (Sept. 1)
Gobe tout.—*Vienne.*

28. (St Vitalis.)
Friert es auf Sanct Vital
So geschieht's noch funfzehn Mal.

30. (St Eutropius.)
Saint Eutrope est un grand vendangeur.—*Charente-Inférieur.*

MAY.

Pleasant.
The merry month of May.

So the Sardinians say,
Allegru que Maju.

Mag l'è el piü bel mas de l'an—*Milan:*
i.e., May is the most charming month in the year.

Mag
No g'a parag—*Lombardy:*
i.e., May has no equal.

Cold.

Wenn der Mai den Maien (the white thorn) bringet,
Ist es besser als wenn er ihn findet.

Kühler Mai
Giebt guten Wein und vieles Heu.

Mai freschent
Paja e forment—*Milan:*
i.e., A cold May brings bread and corn.

Maiaza hoz
Vrtea boz—*Basque:*
i.e., A cold May, a good year.

Otorde dabila maiaza su eske—*Basque:*
i.e., The month of May seeks warmth to exchange for bread.

But cold weather in May is not universally desired, for
A cold May enriches no one.

Der Frost, der im Mai kommt, schadet dem Wein,
Dem Hopfer, den Bäumen, dem Korn und dem Lein.

L'è chi Mag con longi dent,
Pover paisan senza forment—*Milan:*
i.e., Here is May with his long teeth, and the poor peasant without corn.

On account of the prevalence of east winds in May, we find many proverbs warning us not to leave off warm clothing till the end of the month—*e.g.* :

a. Cast not a clout
Till May be out.

b. Who doffs his coat on a winter's day
Will gladly put it on in May.—*Scotland.*

c. Hasta pasado Mayo
No te quites el sayo—*Spain :*

i.e., Till May has passed do not leave off your overcoat.

d. Fin a quaranta de Mas
No lasa zo i stras—*North Italy :*

i.e., Up to the fortieth of May, do not put away your winter clothes.

e. Mag, Magion,
A ti la tö rösa, a mi el peliscion.

i.e., May, dear May, you may have all the roses, if I may have a warm coat.

Cold and Wind.

A cold May and a windy,
Makes a fat barn and a findy.

Mag fresch e ventos
Fa l'an bondanzios—*Milan :*

i.e., A cool and windy May causes the year to be fruitful.

Hot.

Du mois de Mai la chaleur
De tout l'an fait la valeur.—*Marne.*

A hot May makes a fat churchyard.

The exact equivalent to the German :
Heisser Mai macht den Kirchhof fett.

Blossoms in May
Not good, some say.

Mai jardinier
Ne comble le grenier.

Will der Mai ein Gärtner sein,
Trägt er nicht in die Scheuern ein.

Dry.

Mag söt,
Gra de per töt—*Brescia :*
i.e., A dry May—corn everywhere.

Wet.

Mai pluvieux rend le laboureur joyeux.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Water in May is bread all the year.

Maiaz eurite,
Vrte oguite—*Basque :*
i.e., A wet May—a fruitful year.

Haddocks are good
When dipped in May flood.

Au mois de Mai
Il faudrait qu'il ne plût jamais.—*Vaucluse.*

Maggio ortolano
Orzo poco e mica grano—*Corsica :*
i.e., A rainy May brings little barley and no wheat.

A May flood
Never did good.

Wet and Cold.

Mai kühl und nass
Füllt Scheuer und Fass.

Wet and Windy.

A wet May and a winnie,
Makes a fou stacky and a finnie.—*Scotland.*

Windy.

A windy May makes a fair year.

Tempesta de Mag la ruina afface:
i.e., A storm in May brings ruin with it.

Thunder.

Thunder in May signifieth that year, need, scarceness and dearth of corn, and great hunger.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Quand il tonne en Mai,
Les vaches ont du lait.—*Haute Saône.*

General.

Fleur de Mai il faut s'y fier.—*Haute Loire.*

En Mai
Blé et vin naist.

Be it weal or be it woe,
Beans should blow before May go.

Be sure of hay
Till the end of May.

He who mows in May
Will have neither fruit nor hay.

He who sows oats in May
Gets little that way.

Are quien aro, que ya Mayo entro—*Spain :*
i.e., Let him plough who ploughed before, for now May has come.

Shear your sheep in May
And you'll shear them away.

He that would live for aye
Must eat sage in May.

Come it early or come it late,
In May comes the cow-quake—*i.e.*, tremulous grass.

Another version of which proverb is,
May, come she early or come she late,
She'll make the cow to quake ;
Because of the cold winds which often prevail in this month.

May, June, and July.

En Mai, Juin, et Juillet,
La bouche baignée et fresche.

They who bathe in May
Will soon be laid in clay :
They who bathe in June
Will sing a merry tune :
They who bathe in July
Will dance like a fly.—*Yorkshire.*

May and June.

May and June are twin sisters.

Look at your corn in May,
And you'll come weeping away:
Look at the same in June,
And you'll come home in another tune.

Froid Mai et chaud Juin
Donnent pain et vin.

A dry May and a leaking June,
Bring all things into tune.

Mist in May and heat in June,
Make the harvest right soon.

A leaking May and a dry June,
Keep the poor man's head abune.

May and August.

Dieu nous garde de la poussière de Mai
Et de la fauge d'Aoust.—*Ariége.*

DAYS IN MAY.

1. (SS. Philip and James, and St Walburga.)
First of May
Robin Hood's day.

Regen in die Walpurgisnacht.
Hat stets Tenn'und Keller vollgemacht.

S'il pleut le premier Mai
Le bœuf gagne et le cochon perd—*Gers:*
Because the meadows will give more hay than the oaks acorns.

Quand il pleut le premier jour de Mai
Les vaches perdent moitié de leur lait.—*Haute-Saône.*

Quand i plut l'nuit de Mai, ign'y a point de cherises.—*Picardy.*

S'il pleut le premier jour de Mai
Les coings Madame sont cuellies.

Quando, Jacobe, dies tuus est et Sancte Philippe,
Nil segeti duro frigore pejus erit.

3. (Invention of the Holy Cross.)
If dry be the buck's horn on Holyrood morn,
'Tis worth a kist of gold ;
But if wet be seen ere Holyrood e'en,
Bad harvest is foretold.—*Yorkshire.*

If the hart and the hind meet dry and part dry on Rood day fair,
For sax weeks of rain there'll be nae mair.—*Scotland.*

So piöv a Santa Crus
No fä cünt sora i tö nus—*Bergamo :*
i.e., If it rain on Holyrood day do not reckon on your nuts.

L'invention de la Saint Croix,
Saint Jean port Latine (May 6),
Saint Paul ermite (January 10),
Ces trois marchands de pain et de vin font la débite.—*Eure et Loire.*

Sème tes haricots à la Sainte Croix,
Tu en récolteras plus que pour toi :
Sème les à la Saint Gengoult (May 11),
Un t'en donnera beaucoup :

Sème les à Saint Didier (May 23),
Pour un tu auras un millier.—*Côte d'Or.*

4.

Si la lune est pleine ou nouvelle
Le jour que Sainte Croix suivra,
Et s'il avient que lors il gèle,
Le plus grant part des fruits mourra.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Regarde bien, si tu me crois,
Le lendemain de Sainte Croix:
Si nous avons le temps serain,
Car on assure pour certain
Que quand cela vient, Dieu nous donne
L'année premierèment bonne:
Mais si le temps est pluvieux
Nous aurons l'an infructueux.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

5.

Lorsqu'il pleut le 5 Mai
Il n'y a point de noix:
Lorsqu'il pleut le 15 Juin
Il n'y a pas de raisin:
Lorsqu'il pleut à la Saint Barnabé,
Il n'y a d'avoine partout où on a semé.—*Morbihan.*

6. (St John ante port: Lat:)

The Flemish rustics, who call this festival "Klein Jan voor het waelsche porten," or, "Sint Jans in d'olie," believe that an east wind blowing during the day presages fine weather, and say,

Klein Jan peut accorder six beaux jours aux paysannes.

S'il pleut le jour de la Saint Jean chaude,
Les biens de la terre dépérissent jusqu'à l'autre (June 24).—*Cher.*

S'il pleut le jour de la petite Saint Jean,
Toute l'année s'en ressent,
Et notamment jusqu'à la grande Saint Jean.—*Niévre.*

9. (Saint Nicolas.)

Da San Nicolò
Se erba'l bo—*Venetia:*
i.e., On St Nicholas' day give the oxen grass (meaning the new hay).

11. (S.S. Gengulphus and Mamertus; S. Maieul of Cluni: St Mokius, in Greek Kalendar.)

S'il pleut le jour Saint Gengoul
Les porcs auront de glands leur seul.

Saint Mamert, Saint Pancrace (May 12), et Saint Servais (May 13),
Sans froid ces saints de glace ne vont jamais.—*Haute Loire.*

Quand il pleut le jour de Saint Maieul
Le cerises tombent par la queue.—*Puy de Dôme.*

If the day of St Mokius be wet, the summer will also be wet.—*Russia:*
"Mokry," in Russian, signifies "wet."

12. (St Pancratius or Pancras.)

There is a prevalent belief on the Continent that very cold

weather, a second winter in fact, may be expected in the middle of May. Besides the proverb just quoted (Saint Mamert, Saint Pancrace, &c.), the French have another to the same effect—viz. :

A la mi-Mai
Queue d'hiver :

And in the north of Italy the peasants call this season "L'inverno dei cavalieri." In France, as we have just seen, the three saints, Mamertus, Pancratius, and Servatius, whose festivals fall on the 11th, 12th, and 13th, are termed "Ice saints;" and so a German proverb says :

Pancraz, Servaz, und Bonifaz (May 14) sind drei Eismänner.—*Rhine.*

The Bohemians have made a special saint of their own, whom they call Pan Serboni (a name composed of the first syllables of Pancratius, Servatius, and Boniface), and of whom they say that "Pan Serboni withers the trees (with frost)."

But in Belgium, on the contrary, there is a proverb that "Saint Pancratius said to St Servatius, 'After my festival there will be no more night frosts.'"

In the Saalthal, near Naumburg, these three saints are called "Weindiebe," *i.e.*, Wine-stealers.

Pancraz und Urban (May 25) ohne Regen
Folgt ein grosser Weinsegen.

To the twelfth of July from the twelfth of May
All is day.

13. (St Servatius.)

Vor Servatius kein Sommer,
Nach Servatius kein Frost.

Kein Reif nach Servaz,
Kein Schnee nach Bonifaz.

Wer seine Schäfe scheert vor Servaz,
Dem ist die Woll' lieber als das Schaf.—*Eifel.*

14. (St Boniface; St Isidor, in Greek Calendar.)

The Russians believe that the cold north winds cease on this day; hence they say—

St Isidor is past, the north winds are over.

20. (St Bernardin of Siena.)

A Sant Bernardi
El fiores el li.

23. (St Desiderius.)

Plante un pois à la Saint Didier,
Tu récolteras un sentier.—*Aube.*

Quand on sème les haricots le jour de la Saint Didier,
On les récolte à la poignée:
Si on les sème à la Saint Claud (June 6)
Ils rattrapent les autres.

25. (St Urban.)

The cold nights are believed to end with the festival of this Saint. Thus we find:

Après la Saint Urbain
Plus ne gèlent vin ni pain.—*Rhône.*

Que Saint Urbain ne soit passé
Le vigneron n'est pas assuré.—*Hautes Alpes.*

St Urban always drives his mother from the stove —*Bohemia*:

This saint is considered to be the patron and guardian of vineyards: and in old times, if it rained on his day, the

husbandmen in South Germany, fearing a bad season, used unceremoniously to throw his image into the nearest pool: hence the saying—

Wenn Sanct Urban kein gut Wetter geit,
Wird er in die Pfützen geleit.

Tel Saint Urbain, telles vendanges.

Urbinet,
Le pire de tous quand il s'y met,
Car il casse le robinet.—*Lot et Garonne.*

Se piöv el di de Sant Urban
Ogni spica la perd on gran:

i.e., If it rains on St Urban's day, every ear of corn loses a grain.

Sanct Urban hell und rein
Segnet die Fässer ein.

Saint Urbain,
Dernier marchand de vin.—*Meuse.*

Après la Saint Urbain
Ce qui reste appartient au vilain.—*Meuse.*

26. (St Philip of Neri.)
Quand ol piöv a San Felep
Ol poer no g'a bisogna del rech—*Bergamo:*

i.e., If it rain on St Philip's day, the poor man has no need to beg of the rich.

31. (St Petronilla.)
Quand il pleut le jour de Sainte Pétronille,
C'est que la sainte mouille sa guenille.—*Yonne.*

S'il pleut à la Sainte Pétronille,
Les raisins deviennent grappiles,
Ou tombent en guenilles.—*Aube.*

A Santa Petronela
La marenda la ve'n tèra—*Bergamo :*
i.e., By St Petronilla's day, the days get so long that luncheon is necessary.

JUNE.

Cold and Wet.

Wenn kalt und nass der Juni war,
Verdirbt er meist das ganze Jahr.

Warm.

June, if sunny,
Brings harvests early.

C'est le mois de Juin
Qui fait le foin.—*Nièvre.*

Dry.

Juni, trocken mehr als nass,
Füllt mit gutem Wein das Fass.

Wet.

A good leak in June
Sets all in tune.

Juin larmoyeux
Rend le laboureur joyeux.—*Hautes Alpes.*

La pluie pendant le mois de Juin
Donne belle avoine et chétif foin.—*Bouches du Rhône.*

Pluie de Juin n'est que fumée.—*Maine et Loire.*

Ein dürrer Brachmonat bringt ein unfruchtbar Jahr:
So er allzu nass,
Leeret er Scheuern und Fass:
Hat er aber zuweilen Regen,
Dann giebt er reichen Segen.—*Palatinate.*

Calm.

Calm weather in June
Sets corn in tune.

Thunder.

S'il tonne au mois de Juin
Année de paille et de foin.—*Indre.*

"Thunder in June signifieth that same year that woods shall be overthrown with winds, and great raging shall be of lions and wolves, and so like of other harmful beasts."—*Book of Knowledge.*

June and July.

Giugno, la falce in pugno,
Se non e in pugno bene,
Luglio ne viene.

DAYS IN JUNE.

1. (St Fortunatus.)

If St Fortunatus's day be fine, we may expect a fruitful season.—*Bohemia.*

6. (St Norbert.)

Les bains qui prend St Norbert inondent la terre. —*Belgium.*

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8. (St Medard.)

This saint is held in high reputation throughout Europe as a weather prophet: naturally, therefore, many proverbs are found relating to his festival—*e.g.* :

S'il pleut à la Saint Médard
La récolte diminue d'un quart :
S'il pleut à la Saint Barnabé (June 11),
Elle diminue de moitié :
Mais s'il fait beau à la Saint Barnabé,
Celui-ci lui coupe le bec ou le pied.—*Loire.*

Quon plou lou jour de Saint Médar,
L'annado gagno ou per un car ; *i.e.*, La récolte augmente ou diminue d'un quart,
Et si Saint Barnabé l'enduro,
La pléjo (pluie) trente noou jours duro.—*Lozère.*

Quand il pleut pour la Saint Médard
Il pleut quarante jours plus tard.

Du jour Saint Médard en Juin
Le laboureur se donne soin,
Car les anciens disent s'il pleut
Que trente jours durer il peut,
Et s'il est beau, sois tout certain
D'avoir abondance du grain.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

S'il pleut le jour de Saint Médard,
Nous n'aurons ni vin ni lard.—*Haute Marne.*

Quand il tombe de l'eau le jour de Saint Médard,
Elle prend du blé pour remettre au Mars.—*Ardennes.*

Si le jour de Saint Médard il pleut sur les vaches, elles n'ont pas de lait de l'année.—*Saône et Loire.*

Was Sanct Medardus für Wetter hält,
Solch Wetter auch in die Ernte fällt.

Wie's wittert auf Medardustag
So bleibt sechs Wochen lang danach.

Sinte Medard
Ses weeken naer—*Ghent:*

i.e., On S. Medard's day it rains six weeks before or six weeks after.

The Bohemians say,—
"St Medard's drops drop for 40 days."

Medardi 4 hebd: imitantur.—*Bucelinus.*

If on the eighth of June it rain
It foretells a wet harvest, men sain.

9. (St Faustus.)

St Faustus said to St Medard: "Barnabas and Vitus are my neighbours, and together we will give the country folk a good washing till Frederick the Hollander (July 18) comes and closes the doors of heaven."—*Belgium.*

10. (St Margaret of Scotland.)

In the Tyrol this Saint is called "Die Wetterfrau:" And there is a saying,—

Regnet es am Margretentage
Dauert der Regen vierzehn Tage.

11. (St Barnabas.)

In the Clog Almanacs the mark or sign of this saint was a rake, denoting the beginning of hay harvest. Hence the proverbs:—

a. On St Barnabas,
Put the scythe to the grass.

b. A la Saint Barnabé
La faux au pré.

c. Sant Barnabas nimmer die Sichel vergass,
Hat den längsten Tag und das längste Gras.

Barnaby bright,
The longest day and the shortest night.

Barnabae festo tempestas saepe oritur.—*Brand.*

Regnet's auf Sanct Barnabas
Schwimmen die Trauben bis in's Fass.

Se piöv la matina de San Barnabà
L'öa bianca töta la va,
E se'l piöv de matina a sera,
La seguasta la bianca e po la nera—*Brẹscią:*
If it rains on the morning of St Barnabas, all the white grapes will be destroyed; and if it rains from morn to night, the white and the black will both come to nothing.

Blés fleuris à la Saint Barnabé,
Présage d'abondance et de qualité.—*Eure.*

A la Saint Barnabé
Le seigle perd le pied.—*Tarn et Garonne.*

15. (SS. Vitus and Cyr.)
If St Vitus's day be rainy weather,
It will rain for thirty days together.

And so the Latin,
Lux sacrata Vito si sit pluviosa, sequentes
Triginta facient omne madere solum.—*Buchler.*

Wenn es am Sanct Veitstag regnet, so soll das Jahr fruchtbar sein.—*Swabia.*

But in Westphalia they say,

Wenn es am Vitustage regnet, gedeiht der Hafer nicht.

Se piöv el di de Sant Vit
El prodot de l'üga è mèz fallit—*Milan:*

i.e., If it rain on St Vitus's day, half of the grapes will be destroyed.

Sünne Vit,
Dann ännert sik de Tiet,
Dann gait dat Lauf in de Egge stahn,
Dann hebbt de Vügel't Leggen dahn—*Rhine:*

i.e., St Vitus's day, then the season changes, then the leaves are fully out, then have the birds finished laying.

The nightingale stops singing on St Vitus's day.—*Poland.*

Vit bringt die Fliegen mit.

S'il pleut le jour de Saint Cyr,
Le vin diminue jusqu'à la tire.—*Allier.*

16. St Tychon (in the Greek Calendar).

The birds are silent on St Tychon's day.—*Russia.*

Perhaps because "tichy" is the Russian word for "still, quiet."

19. (St Gervasius.)

Quand il pleut à la Saint Gervais
Il pleut quarante jours après.—*Pas de Calais.*

S'il pleut la veille Saint Gervais
Pour les bleds c'est signe mauvais,
Car d'iceux la tierce partie
Est ordinairement périe,

A cause que par trente jours
Le temps humide aura son cours :
Que si tel jour estoit serain
Qu'on s'assure d'avoir du grain.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

23. (Eve of St John the Baptist.)
If it rains on Midsummer Eve the filberts will be spoiled.

La veglia de Sant Juan
El piöv töc i an—*Brescia :*
i.e., On the Eve of St John it rains every year.

24. (St John the Baptist.)
Pluie de Saint Jean dure long temps.—*Mayenne.*

Vor Johannis bet'um Regen,
Nach Johannis kommt er ungebeten :

Another form of which is,

Vor Johanni müssen die Priester um Regen bitten, nach Johanni kann man's selber.—*Westphalia.*

Regnet's am Johannistag, so regnet es noch vier Wochen, und man hat eine schlechte Ernte zu erwarten.—*Westphalia.*

Orages avant la Saint Jean
Ne sont pas dangereux,
Après ils sont violents.—*Vendée.*

It seems a prevalent opinion that rain on this day is very prejudicial to nuts. Thus we find :

a. If Midsummer Day be never so little rainy, the hazel and walnut will be scarce : corn smitten

in many places: but apples, pears, and plums will not be hurt.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

b. Du jour Saint Jean la pluie
Fait la noisette pourrie.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

c. Regnet's auf Johannistag
Ist der Haselnüsse Plag.

d. Pluvias Sancti Johannis festo quadraginta dies pluviæ sequuntur, certa nucum pernicies.—*Bucelinus.*

Midsummer rain
Spoils hay and grain.

So the French,

Quand il pleut à la Saint Jean,
Les blés dégénèrent souvent.—*Eure et Loire.*

Eau de Saint Jean ôte le vin
Et ne donne point de pain.—*Meuse.*

And the Latin,

Baptistæ fuerit quum lux pluviosa Johannis
Ingrati messis plena laboris erit.—*Buchler.*

Se piove'l di de San Zuane
Carestia de sorgo e anca de cane—*Venice:*
i.e., If it rain on St John's day there will be a bad growth of millet and reeds.

La nòt de San Giovan
Se forma el most nel gran.—*Milan.*

Cut your thistles before St John—
You will have two instead of one.

Montre-moi une olive à la Saint Jean,
Je t'en montrerai mille à la Toussaint.—*Bouches du Rhône.*

Vor Johannistag
Man Gerst 'und Hafer nicht loben mag.—*Eifel.*

Hasta San Juan
Todo vino rabadan—*Andalusia:*
i.e., Up to St John's day wine is fit only for peasants.

It is a saying in wine countries that wine of the last year's vintage is not good till the following Midsummer.—See *St Gallus*, Oct. 16.

Wenn der Kukuk nach Johanni singt,
Einen nassen Herbsten er uns bringt.—*Eifel.*

As many days as the cuckoo sings after St John, so many warm days will there be after Michaelmas.—*Carinthia.*

Déshabillez vous pour la Saint Jean,
Et le lendemain
Reprenez vos vêtements.—*Vaucluse.*

A la Saint Jean, verjus pendant,
Argent comptant.—*Vosges.*

Saint Jean doit une averse;
S'il ne la paye pas Saint Pierre la doit.—*Côte d'Or.*

27. (The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus.)
Les sept dormans
Remettent le temps.

Regnet's am Tage der Siebenschläfer, regnet es noch sieben Wochen.

Sind die Schläfertage nass
Nicht gut fur Scheuer und Fass.

28. (Eve of St Peter.)
Si'l pleut la veille de Saint Pierre,
La vinée est réduite au tiers.—*Lot et Garonne.*

29. (SS. Peter and Paul.)
Saint Pierre et Saint Paul pluvieux
Pour trente jours dangereux.—*Eure.*

Saint Pierre et Saint Paul
Lavent les rues de Saint Martial.—*Dordogne.*

Saint Pierre pleure toujours.—*Maine et Loire.*

Aqua de San Peder
Aqua senza meder.—*Milan.*

On craint le coq de la Saint Pierre: lorsqu'il chante, il amene le mauvais temps.

Schön zu Sanct Paul
Füllt Taschen und Maul.—*Austria.*

De Saint Paul lou beau temps
Nour faré viouré contents.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Cum recolit Petri Paulique Ecclesia sancta
Martyrium, radix frugibus emeritur.
Tunc maturescunt segetes, noctesque diesque,
Approperatque cito messis amica pede.—*Buchler.*

Dä Perrersdag (Peterstag),
Das heckt der Has,
Da jongt de Koh,

Da lät (legt) dät Hoh (Huhn),
Da kryt de Husfrou vel ze doh (thun)—*Rhine:*
i.e., On St Peter's day the hare brings forth her young, the cow calves, the hen lays, the goodwife cries, "Well done!"

An Peter und Pol
Lauft der Hase in'n Kohl.—*Hesse Darmstadt.*

Quand che San Peter el ven,
O che l'e paja, o che l'e fen—*Milan:*
i.e., When St Peter's day comes, we can tell whether we shall have straw or hay.

JULY.

Hot.

Sul de Lui
El fa per dü—*Brescia:*
i.e., July sun does for two.

In July take off your clothes, in December put on the warmest that you have.—*Russia.*

Wechselt im Juli stets Regen und Sonnenschein,
So wird im nächsten Jahr die Ernte reichlich sein.

Storms.

No tempest, good July,
Lest the corn look ruely.

Thunder.

Thunder in July signifieth the same year shall be good corn, and loss of beasts: that is to say, their strength shall perish.—*Book of Knowledge.*

General.

Triulas triulado—*Sardinia :*

i.e., Plaguy July : because in this month there is so much work for the farmer.

In July
Shear your rye.

Au mois de Juliet
La faucille au poignet.—*Jura.*

The Bohemians say,

" In July the quail calls to the reapers in the field, ' Come cut : come cut : here's five kreuzers, five kreuzers for you.' "

July and August.

In July
Some reap rye :
In August,
If one will not, the other must.

In Hindustan, where Sawun corresponds with our month of July, there is the proverb,

A dry Sawun, a dry B'hadun—*i. e.*, August and September,

July and January.

Wie der Juli war,
Wird der Januar.—*Thuringia.*

DAYS IN JULY.

1. (St Calais.)

Quand il pleut à la Saint Calais,
Il pleut quarante jours après.—*Sarthe.*

If the first of July be rainy weather
'Twill rain more or less for four weeks together.

2. (Visitation of B. V. M., SS. Processus and Martinian.)

Wenn's zu Maria regnen mag,
So regnet's noch manchen Tag.—*Austria.*

If it rain on the second of July, such weather shall be forty days after: day by day.—*Husbandman's Practice.*

And so the Latin saying,

Secundo die Julii pluvia 40 dies similes conducit.—*Bucelinus.*

The Belgians say,

Quand Notre Dame dit, le jour de la Visitation à S. Jean, nous ferons pleuvoir! cela gâte toute la récolte.

The Danish peasants, according to Wormius (Fast. Dan. 115) declare that if there be rain on this day, it will continue to the day of S. Mary Magdalene, the 22d of this month: and on the Rhine the 2d of July has such a watery reputation, that it is called "Maria Eintropfentag"—*i. e.*, Mary Drip Day; thus the proverb:

Wann't op Mariendach en Drüöpken riägent, dann riägent, et (af un tau) vöttich Dage derna:

i.e., If it rain only a drop on St Mary's day, it will rain, off and on, for forty days.

The Latin version of which is,

Alma Dei genitrix quo tempore Virgo Maria
Cognatam invisit plena pudore suam,
Si pluat, haud poteris cœlum sperare serenum,
Transivere aliquot ni prius ante dies.—*Buchler.*

Deux jours alors que Marie
L'on visite, s'il fait pluye,
Asseurez vous que les filles
Cueilleront bien peu de noisilles.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Si pluat in festo Processi et Martiniani,
Imber erit grandis et suffocatio grani.—*Brand.*

Wie die Mutter Gottes über das Gebirge geht, so kehrt sie wieder zurück.

4. (Translation of St Martin.)

If the deer rise dry and lie down dry on Bullion's day, there will be a good harvest.

Bullion's day, if ye be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.

In Scotland this day is called St Martin of Bullion's day: for what reason it is uncertain. Du Cange styles it, "Festum Sancti Martini Bullientis, vulgo etiamnum Saint Martin Bouillant:" *i.e.*, Hot, boiling; perhaps from the heat of the season in which this festival falls.

And so we find in France:

S'il pleut le jour de la Saint Martin bouillant,
Il pleut six semaines durant.—*Maine.*

6. (St Godelieve.)

Rain on this day is dreaded in Belgium.

7. (St Benedict XI.)

S'il pleut le jour de Saint Benôit,
Il pleuvra trente sept jours plus trois.—*Seine-Inférieure.*

9. (St Kilian.)

Sanct Kilian
Stellt Schnitter an.—*Bavaria.*

The Danes apply this proverb to St Knud's day, July 10; and the Bohemians to St Margaret's, the 13th.

10. (St Felicitas and her seven sons.)

Wie das Wetter am Sieben-Brüder-Tage ist, so soll es sieben Wochen bleiben.

13. (St Margaret.)

If S. Margaret's day be dry, God will give us a fine autumn.—*Gallicia.*

The Bohemians consider that harvest should begin on this day, and say:

S. Margaret puts the sickle to the corn.

Sünte Margraite,
Lätt us de Nüete genaiten.
Sünte Magdelene,
Jetet se allene.

i.e., St Margareth
Lässt uns die Nüsse geniessen;
St Magdalene (July 22).
Isst sie allein.— *Westphalia.*

An Margrethen Regen
Bringt den Nüssen keinen Segen.

In the old Calendars, St Margaret's day was considered to be the first of the Dog-days, whence the proverb:

Margaris os Canis est, caudam Laurentius (Aug. 10) addit.

15. (St Swithin.)

If St Swithin weeps, the proverb says,
The weather will be foul for forty days.—*Country Almanac*, 1675.

St Swithin's day, if thou be fair,
'Twill rain for forty days nae mair:
St Swithin's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain.

If on St Swithin's day it proves fair, a temperate winter will follow: but if rainy, stormy, or windy, then the contrary.

In some parts of England, says Hone, they have a proverb, "St Swithin is christening the apples," when it rains on this day.

Mr Earle has completely exploded the old story about the translation of the bones of this saint, and shown it to be in every respect without foundation. So far from rain and tempests bursting forth on that occasion, the weather seems to have been most propitious. "How then," says Chambers (Book of Days, vol. ii. p. 63) "did the popular notion about St Swithin's day arise? Most probably, as Mr Earle remarks, it was derived from some primeval pagan belief regarding the meteorologically prophetic character of some day about the same period of the year as S. Swithin's. — It is to be observed that (as the reader of this work will doubtless have noticed) in various countries of the European continent the same belief prevails, though differences exist as to the period of the particular day in question. Thus, in France, St Medard (June 8) and SS. Gervase and Protasius (June 19) have a similar character assigned to them.—In Belgium they have a rainy saint, St Godelieve (July 6); whilst in Germany, amongst others, a character of that description

is ascribed to the day of the Seven Sleepers (June 27)." In some parts of Poland St Harold (July 19) is considered a weather prophet; and for Denmark, see above on July 2d and July 9th; and for North Italy, July 26th.

The number forty plays a very prominent part in weather proverbs, and it seems probable that it is to be referred to the frequent occurrence of this period in Holy Scripture—*e.g.*, the rain fell on the earth for forty days whilst Noah was in the ark; Moses was forty days in Mount Sinai; Elijah was forty days in the wilderness; our blessed Lord the same time. So, too, do persons coming from infected places remain forty days either on shipboard or in some building set apart for the purpose, before they are permitted to have their freedom. The right of sanctuary was also limited to the same period.

18. (St Philastrius.)

A Sant Filaster
Ne piö mei, ne piö polaster.

21. (SS. Daniel (Abbot) and Victor.)

In Belgium rain on this day is considered to prognosticate fair weather.

Si plueu lou tyourt de Saint Victor
La récolto n'es pas d'or.—*Hautes Alpes.*

22. (St Mary Magdalene.)

Maria Magdalena weint um ihren Herrn,
D'rum regnet's an diesem Tage gern.

A la Madeleine
Les noix sont pleines,

So the Italians,

A Santa Maria Maddalena
Les nùs le piena:

O piena o d'empieni
I nòs scieg i la öl dervi—*Brescia:*

i.e., On St Mary Magdalene's day the nuts are full: full or not, our children will open them.

24. SS. Boris and Gleb (in the Calendar of the Greek Church).

There is a Russian proverb,

Boris and Gleb are bread-makers.

Bread in all Sclavonic dialects is called "chleb."

25. (St James the Greater.)

The Germans believe that as the weather is on this day, so will it be on the festival of Christmas. Thus:

Jakobi klar und rein,
Wird Christfest kalt und frostig sein.

So also they say,

Der Vormittag vom Jakobstag
Das Wetter bis Weihnacht deuten mag.

This belief was shared by our ancestors, for in an old work entitled "The Husbandman's Practice," is found the following:—

"An old rule of the Husbandman.

"When it is fair three Sundays after St James his day, it betokeneth that corn shall be very good: but if it rain then the corn withereth: S. James's day before noon betokeneth the winter time before Christmas; and after noon, it betokeneth the time after Christmas. If it be so that the sun shine on S. James his day, it is a token of cold weather: but if it rain thereon, it is a token of warm and moist weather: but if it is between the two, that is a token of neither too warm nor yet too cold."

If there are white clouds in the sky at sunrise on this day the Germans say that,

"Der Schnee blüht für nächsten Winter."

26. (S. Anne.)

Rain on this day is called in North Italy "St Anne's dower;" thus—

Come l'é sana
La dota de Sant'Anna—*Milan:*

i.e., How healthful is the dower of St Anne!

Se piöv el di de Sant'Anna
Piov on mes e ona setimana—*Milan:*

i.e., If it rain on St Anne's day, it will rain for a month and a week.

A Santa Anna
Sa madüra l'uliána—*Venice:*

i.e., On St Anne's day the July grape is ripe.

AUGUST.

Warm.

Dry August and warm,
Doth harvest no harm.

El sù d'Agost
L'ingana la massera el pret e l'ost—*Milan:*

i.e., August sun disappoints the maid, the priest, and the host (because it scorches up all the vegetables).

Wet.

Quand il pleut en Aoust,
Il pleut miel et bon moust.

So the Spaniards say,
Quando llueve en Agosto
Llueve miel y mosto.

And the Italians,
L'aqua d'Agost
L'è töta mel e töt most.—*Bergamo.*

La prima acqua d'Agost
La rinfresca'l bosc—*Bergamo:*
i.e., Rain early in August refreshes the trees.

La prim'aqua d'Agost
La porta via on sach de püres e de mosch:
i.e., Rain early in August carries off with it a sack of fleas and one of flies.

A wet August never brings dearth.

Thunder.

Tonnerre au mois d'Août,
Abondance de grappes et bon moût.—*Drôme.*

Thunder in August signifieth the same year, sorrow, wailing of many, for many shall be sick.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Wind.

Nordwinde im August bringen beständiges Wetter.

General.

Ce sont faucilles apres Août.

En moissonant se passe l'Août.

En Aoust faict il bon glaner.

En Août quiconque dormira
Sur midi s'en repentira.—*Oise.*

Qui dort en Aoust
Dort à son coust.— *Côte d'Or.*

So the Italian proverb:

A dormi d'Agost
Se dorma a sò mal cost.—*Bergamo.*

August and September.

August ripens, September gathers in.

August bears the burden, September the fruit.

Agost el cüsina
E Setember l'empienss la cantina—*Brescia:*
i.e., August fills the kitchen and September the cellar.

Ce qu'Août n'aura cuit
Septembre ne le rotira.—*Haut Rhine.*

And so the German,

Was der August nicht kocht, lässt der September ungebraten.

August and March.

August is as much warmer than March, as Asia is better than Africa.—*A Russian Proverb.*

DAYS IN AUGUST.

1. (St Peter ad vincula: or Lammas-day.)

Quand il pleut le premier Août,
C'est signe qu'il n'y aura pas de regain (aftermath).
—*Coreze.*

After Lammas corn ripens as much by night as by day.

Because of the heavy night dews.

1-12.

In Albania the country people believe that the first twelve days of August foretell the character of the weather during the ensuing twelve months. —See on Jan. 2 and 25.

6. (The Transfiguration of our Lord: St Sixtus.)

San Transfiguratio qual es el dia tal es el año —*Spain:*

i.e., As the weather is on the day of the Transfiguration, so will it be the rest of the year.

The Saviour is coming, get your gloves ready. —*Russia.*

In Sixti festo venti validi memor esto,
Si sit nulla quies, farra valere scies.—*Brand.*

7. (St Gajetan.)

L'acqui di san Gaitanu
Arrifrescanu lu chiapu:
L'acqui di l'Assunzioni (August 15)
Pigghiatili ca su boni.

10. (St Laurence.)

A la Saint Laurent,
La faucille au froment.

Um Sanct Laurenti Sonnenschein
Bedeutet ein gutes Jahr von Wein.

Sanct Laurenz bringt eine Helle oder Spreng; *i.e.*, rain.—*Eifel.*

Regnet's an Laurentii Tag, giebt es viele Mäuse.

Jaun done Laurenti
Escu bate-an-euria, beste-an-ilinti—*Basque:*

i.e., After St Laurence, on one day comes rain, on the next mildew.

De Sén Laouréns à Nostro Damo (August 15)
La pléjo (la pluie) n'afligio pas l'âmo.—*Lozere.*

If it is fine on St Laurence's day and the day of the Assumption, there will be a good vintage.—*Illyria.*

The two following French and Italian proverbs exactly correspond, viz. :

Sé ploou a San Laouren,
La plehjo ven ben aten :
Sé ploou per Nostro Damo
Cadun encoro l'aïmo :
Sé ploou à San Bertoumiou
Boufo li aou kiou.—*Gard.*

i.e. S'il pleut à la Saint Laurent
La pluie vient à temps :
Si elle vient à Notre Dame
Chacun encore l'aime :
Si la pluie vient à Saint Barthélemy
Souffle lui au derrière.

Se'l piöv per San Lorenz,
L'e on pö tardi, ma l'e a temp :
Se'l piöv per la Madona,
Lassei di, che l'anmö bonna :
Ma se'l piöv per San Bartolomé (Aug. 24)
Te ghe pödet boffagh adré –*Milan:*

i.e., If it rain on St Laurence, it is rather late, but still in

time: if it rain on the Assumption, it is, let me tell you, also good: but if it rain on St Bartholomew, all you can do is to give the saint a buffet.

S'il pleut à la Saint Laurent,
La pluie est encore à temps:
Mais à la Saint Barthélemy
Tout le monde en fait fi.—*Rhone.*

Wie Laurenz und Bartholomäi,
So dich zum Herbst gefreu.

Sanct Laurenz—erste Herbstag.

Saint Laurent arrange les blés noirs.

15. (Assumption of B. V. M.)

If the sun do shine on the 15th of August, that is a good token, and especially for wind.—*Husbandman's Practice.*

Himmelfahrt Mariä Sonnenschein
Bringt guten Wein:

Of which the Latin version is,

Alma Dei genitrix quâ luce assumpta putatur,
Promittit solis suavia vina jubar.—*Buchler.*

A la Madonna
L'e ànmò bonna:
De San Roch (August 16)
L'a spatâ tròp—*Milan*:

i.e., Rain on Our Lady's day is good, on St Roch it is too late.

Assumptio augustior copiam notat.—*Bucelinus.*

The holy queen of heaven gives us the first nuts.—*Bohemia.*

Krutwigge brenget 'et Salt in de Appeln—*Munster*:
i.e., Cabbage Feast brings salt into the apples (if it rain on this day).

In Germany this festival is called "Our Lady's cabbage feast" (unserer Frauen Kräuterweihe), because it is the custom amongst the Roman Catholics on this day to bring to church cabbages or ears of corn to be blessed, which they keep as a safeguard against storms, sickness, evil spirits, &c.

19. (SS. Louis and Sebald.)

Um den Ludwigstag pflegt warmes Sommerwetter gern in Regen umzusehlagen, der an acht Tage dauert.

This is a good day for turnip-sowing, for St Sebald (who, to oblige a poor man, turned icicles into logs of wood) can cause each seed to produce a fine root.—*Belgium.*

24. (St Bartholomew.)

A'la Saint Barthelemy
La perche au noyer,
Le trident au fumier.—*Ain.*

If this day be misty, the morning beginning with a hoar-frost, the cold weather will soon come, and a hard winter.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

St Bartholomew
Brings the cold dew:
Because the nights now begin to be cold.

Um Bartimä
Schaut der Schnee
Ueber's Joch her.—*Tyrol.*

Bartelmies
Spart Botter onn Kies (Butter un Käs)
Lingen-Hosen und Struh-Höt.—*Platt-Deutsch.*

If it rains on this day it rains for forty days.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Sé ploou per Sé-Berthoumiou,
Sé t'én moques, noun fooù pas iou; *i.e.*, non pas moi.—*Lozère.*

Wie Sanct Bartholomäus sich verhält,
So ist der ganze Herbst bestellt.

S'il pleut à la Saint Barthélemy,
Il y aura assez de raves et de regain.—*Dordogne.*

All the tears St Swithin can cry,
St Bartholomew's dusty mantle wipes dry.

If Bartlemy's day be fair and clear,
We may hope for a prosperous autumn that year.

Sancti Bartholomaei autumnus imitatur.

St Bartholomew shortens our afternoons.—*Poland.*

26. (St Lissander.)

In the north of Italy the peasants believe that it always rains on this day, and call the saint to whom it is dedicated "The Waterer, or Water-carrier;" hence the proverb,

San Lissander daquaröl,
O che'l piöv o che'l se dŏl.

28. (St Augustine.)

Sant Augustin, taca tacon—*Venetia:*

i.e., On St Augustine's day darn your clothes (in preparation for winter).

SEPTEMBER.

Warm.

Quand la cigale chante en Septembre
N'achète pas de blé pour le revendre.—*Gard.*

The Italian proverb is similar, viz.:
Se canta la sigala de Setember
No compra gra de vender.—*Milan.*

Septembre est le mai d'automne.—*Aube.*

Rain.

September Regen
Fur Saat und Reben
Dem Bauer gelegen.

Wind.

September, blow soft,
Till the fruit's in the loft.

Thunder.

Thunder in September signifieth the same year great wind, plenty of corn, and much falling out between man and man.—*Book of Knowledge.*

General.

Setember
Fösset semper—*Brescia:*
i.e., Would it were ever September.

Lorsque beaucoup d'étoiles filent en Septembre,
Les tonneaux sont alors trop petits en Novembre.
—*Haute Loire.*

O Setember el porta i pont,
O el süga tüt de cap a fond—*Milan:*
i.e., September either carries away bridges, or else dries up everything high and low.

Fools grow fat in September—*Sardinia:*
Because the wise husbandman has so much to do in this month.

DAYS IN SEPTEMBER.

1. (SS. Giles and Lupus.)
S. Egidius serenus 4 hebd. serenat.—*Bucelinus.*

Wie der Sanct Egidïtag
So der ganze Monat mag.

Wie der Hirsch in die Brunst tritt (on S. Giles's day); so tritt er wieder heraus (on Michaelmas day.)

In Venerem rapitur lascivo corpore cervus,
Egidi, quando lux tua, Sancte, fuit.
Tum quoque si Phœbus splendet, fit copia vini,
Et secum autumnus commoda multa trahit.—*Buchler.*

Ist zu Egidi ein heller Tag
Ich dir einen guten Herbst versag'.

About Aix la Chapelle the country people consider that cold weather begins on this day; and have a proverb,

Um Sanct Gillis geht Kaiser Karl nach dem Winterquartier, um Christi Himmelfahrt kommt er wieder heraus.

In Picardy they say, because the evenings become longer:
Al Saint Leu
El lampe och' cleu ; *i.e.*, on the nail.

The Russians calls this day "The carrier-away of summer."

3. (St Gregory the Great.)
A la Saint Grégoire
Il faut tailler la vigne pour boire.—*Charente.*

Os pouvons r'mercier Saint Gregoire,
Os avons du mau, os n'n'aurons coire.—*Picardy.*

7. Au septième Septembre sème ton blé,
Car ce jour vaut du fumier :
Sème tes blés à la Saint Maurice (Sept. 22),
Tu en auras à ton caprice :
Sème à la Saint Denis (Oct. 9),
Tu contempleras tes semis.—*Côte d'Or.*

8. (Nativity of B. V. M.)
Wie das Wetter an Mariä Geburt, so soll es vier Wochen bleiben.—*Swabia.*

An Mariä Geburt
Fliegen die Schwalben furt.

9. (St Gorgonius.)
Se fa bel el di de San Gorgon
Per quaranta di l'e bel e bon—*Milan :*

i.e., If it is fine on St Gorgonius's day it will continue fine for forty days.

Se piove da San Gorgon
Sete brentane e un brentanon—*Venice :*

"Brentana" means a flooding of the Brenta.

Se piove per San Gorgonio
Tutto l'ottobre l'e un demonio—*Tuscany:*
i.e., If it rain on St Gorgonius's day, October will prove a demon.

15. (St Nicetas.)
On S. Nicetas the wild geese fly away (a sign of the approach of winter).—*Russia.*

"The weather," says Forster, "is at least six times out of seven, fine on this day."

17. (St Lambert.)
Saint Lambert pluvieux
Neuf jours dangereux.—*Aisne.*

Ch'est aujourd'hui Saint Lambert,
Qui quitte ess' plache el' perd.—*Nord.*

21. (St Matthew.)
Ist Matthäi hell und klar,
Hoff du viel Wein auf's nächste Jahr.—*Palatinate.*

Quand il pleut à la Saint Matthieu
Fais coucher tes vaches et tes bœufs.—*Haute Loire.*

Wenn Matthäus weint statt lacht,
Er aus dem Weine Essig macht.

Mathies
Macht die Weimer, *i.e.* grapes, süss.—*Tyrol.*

Tritt Matthäus sturmisch ein
Wird's bis Ostern Winter kein.

In Italy they consider the fine sunny weather to be now at an end—thus:

Dop el di de San Matê
Poch bei di te vedarê—*Milan :*
i.e., After St Matthew you will not see many fine days.

And so in England we say :
St Matthee,
Shut up the bee.

And the Germans :
An Matthäi
Die Mütze über die Ohren zieh

St Matthew,
Get candlesticks new.

22. (St Maurice.)
Wenn es an Mauritius klares Wetter ist, so sollen im nächsten Winter viele Winde tosen.—*Suabia.*

29. St Michael and all Angels : St Cyriacus (in the Calendar of the Greek Church).
If Michaelmas-day be fine, the sun will shine much in the winter, though the wind at north-east will frequently reign long and be sharp and nipping. —*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

Quand le vent est au nord le jour de la Saint Michel,
Le mois d'Octobre est sec.—*Vendée.*

A San Michel
El calor el va sü in ciel—*Milan :*
i.e., On Michaelmas-day the heat ascends (leaves us).

Se l'Arcangiol se bagna i al
El vor piöv fina a Nadal :
i.e., If the Archangel wet his wing, it will rain up to Christmas.

Pluie de Saint Michel
Soit devant ou derrière, elle ne demeure au ciel.

Regen am Sanct Michaelistag lässt, ohne Gewitter, einen milden Winter: mit Gewitter, viel Wind erwarten.

Regnet's am Michaelis- und am Gallus-Tage (Oct. 16) nicht, so rechnet man auf ein trockenes Frühjahr.

On St Cyriacus the cold begins; on St Mary's day in the winter (Nov. 9) it has set in.—*Russia.*

A la Saint Michel on cueille chaque fruit.

A Michaelmas rot
Comes ne'er in the pot.

At Michaelmas time or a little before,
Half an apple goes to the core:
At Christmas time or a little after,
A crab in the hedge and thanks to the grafter.

Wenn der Wein vor Michaeli erfriert, soll er im nächsten Mai wieder erfrieren.

Sanct Michaeliswein
Süsser Wein, Herrenwein.
See also on June 25 and Oct. 16.

Entre Saint Mitcheou et Saint Francès (Oct. 4)
Prend ta vendoumiou taou quès, *i.e.*, telle qu'elle est,
A Saint Denys pren la si ly.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Der Michel keinen Tischwein schafft,
Wenn Felix (Jan. 14) nicht glückhaft,
Wenn dieses nicht kann sein,
So bringt Gallus sauern Wein.—*Suabia.*

Willst du sehen, wie das Jahr gerathen soll,
So merke folgende Lehre gar wohl:
Nimm wahr den Eichapfel um Michaelistag,
An welchem man das Jahr erkennen mag:
Haben sie Spinnen, so folgt kein gutes Jahr;
Haben sie Fliegen, so zeigt's ein Mitteljahr, fürwahr:
Haben sie Maden, so wird das Jahr gut;
Ist nichts darin, so hält der Tod die Hut.
Sind die Eichapfel früh und sehr viel,
So schau, was der Winter verrichten will.
Mit vielem Schnee kommt er vor Weihnachten,
Darnach magst du grosse Kält' betrachten.
Sind die Eichapfel ganz schön innerlich.
So folgt ein reicher schöner Sommer sicherlich:
Werden sie innerlich nass erfunden,
Thut einen nassen Sommer bekunden:
Sind sie mager, so wird der Sommer heiss,
Das sei dir gesagt mit allem Fleiss.—*Wurtemburg.*

And we find in 'The Husbandman's Practice, or Prognostication for ever,' the following prognostication, almost identical with the preceding:—

"If thou wilt see and know how it will go that year, then take heed of the Oak-apples about S. Michael's day, for by them you shall know how that year shall be: If the Apples of the

Oak-trees when they be cut be within full of spiders, then followeth a naughty year; if the Apples have within them Flies, that betokens a meetly good year; if they have Maggots in them, then followeth a good year; if there be nothing in them, then followeth a great Dearth; if the Apples be many, and early ripe, so shall it be an early Winter, and very much snow shall be afore Christmas, and after that it shall be cold: if the inner part or kernel be fair and clear, then shall the Summer be fair, and Corn good also; but if they be very moist, then shall the Summer also be moist; if they be lean, then shall there be a hot and dry Summer."

So many days old the moon is on Michaelmas-day, so many floods after.

The Michaelmas moon
Rises nine nights alike soon.

The nearest moon to the autumnal equinox is called "the Harvest Moon," rising nearer to the same time each succeeding night, at this time of year, than it does at any other. It has received its cognomen in autumn only, on account probably of its use to the farmers, when pressed for time with the ingathering of the harvest.

In South Germany the country people believe that the wind blowing on this day from six A.M. to six P.M. prognosticates the character of the winds for the ensuing year, each hour answering to a month: *e.g.*, the wind in March would be in the quarter in which it was between eight and nine A.M.

OCTOBER.

In Lombardy the peasants always expect a few fine days towards the middle of this month, which they call "L'estâ de Santa Teresa"—*i.e.*, St Teresa's summer, because the festival of that saint falls on the 15th; and the warm weather which we so often experience at this season, is in almost every European country known by the name of summer. Thus the Germans call it the "Altweiber Sommer," or the summer of St Gall (Oct. 16), or "of St Martin" (Nov. 11): the Swedes give it the title of St Bridget's Summer (S. Bridget's day being Oct. 8): the Bohemians, "the Summer of St Wenceslaus" (Sept. 28); the Belgians, "St Michael's Summer:" our own country people "St Luke's little Summer;" and the French, "L'été de Saint Denis" (Oct. 9.) The Americans call it, "The Indian Summer." The Friday before the 1st of October is called in Belgium "Koude Vrydag," cold Friday.

Cold.

Viel Frost und Schnee im Oktober deutet auf milde Witterung im Winter.

Warm.

Ist der Weinmond warm und fein,
Kommt ein scharfer Winter hinterdrein.

Stormy.

The Poles and Bohemians, as well as the Germans, say—

Gewitter im Oktober lassen einen unbeständigen Winter erwarten.

Wind.

Good October, a good blast
To blow the hogs acorns and mast.

Thunder.

Thunder in October signifieth the same year great wind, and scantiness of corn, fruits, and trees.—*Book of Knowledge.*

General.

Der Oktober muss zwölf schöne Tage aufweisen, wie der März.

If foxes bark in October, they are calling up a great fall of snow.—*Luxemburg.*

If in the fall of the leaf in October, many leaves wither on the boughs and hang there, it betokens a frosty winter and much snow.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

Exactly corresponding with which is the German proverb—

Sitzt das Laub im Oktober noch fest auf den Bäumen, so deutet das auf einen strengen Winter

Dry your barley in October,
Or you'll always be sober.

Because if this is not done there will be no malt.

Quand Octobre prend sa fin
La Toussaint est au matin.

October and February.

Warmer Oktober bringt kalten Februar.

DAYS IN OCTOBER.

1. (St Mary the Intercessor.)
On the feast of St Mary the Intercessor, expect the first frosts.—*Russia.*

2. (St Leodegarius.)
Fällt das Laub auf Leodegar,
So ist der nächste ein fruchtbar Jahr.—*Palatinate.*

4. (St Francis of Assisi.)
Sème le jour de Saint François,
Ton grain aura du poids.

6. (St Bruno.)
Le blé, semé le jour de Saint Bruno, devient noir. —*Calvados.*

9. (St Denis, or Dionysius.)
Regarde bien auparavant
Et après Saint Denis les jours,
Car si tu vois qu'il gêle blanc
Les vieux assurent que toujours
Le semblable temps tu revois
Avant et après Saint Croix.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Si le temps est clair le jour de Saint Denis, l'hiver sera rigoureux.—*Cher.*

Où le vent couche à la Saint Denis, il y reste les trois quarts de l'année.

Le jour de Saint Denis
Le vent se marie à minuit.—*Calvados.*

A la Saint Denis
La bonne sémerie.—*Eure et Loire.*

14. (St Calixtus.)

If St Calixtus's day be dry and windy, the winter will be wet: but if it be rainy and still, the harvest will be good.—*Sardinia.*

15. (St Theresa.)

L'estâ de Santa Teresa
A tanti ròb el fa la spesa—*Milan:*

See in "October."

Per Santa Teresa
Prepara la tesa.—*Bergamo.*

At this season bird-snaring begins.

16. (St Gallus.)

Am Sanct Gallustag
Den Nachsommer man erwarten mag:

But in some parts of Germany they say—

Sanct Gallen
Lässt den Schnee fallen:

And

Nach Sanct Gall
Bleibt die Kuh im Stall.

Se fà bèl la festa de San Gal,
El fà bèl fina a Nadal—*Bergamo:*

i.e., If it is fine on St Gall's day, it will be fine up to Christmas.

Ein trockener Sanct Gallustag verkündet einen trockenen Sommer.

De San Gal,
Göja i bo, e no fa fal.
i.e., On St Gall's day, be sure to yoke the oxen (for ploughing).

Sanct Galliwein—Bauernwein :
See Sept. 29 and June 24.

Auf Sanct Gallitag
Muss jeder Apfel in seinen Sack.—*Suabia.*

17. (St Cerbonius.)

Le jour de Saint Cerbonnet les prêtres prennent le camail et serrent le bonnet carré (because of the cold).

18. (St Luke.)

Qu'on ploou per sén Luc à la sogno,
L'aigo es néou soubré la montagno—*Lozère :*
i.e., Lorsqu'il pleut dans le vallon le jour de Saint Luc,
L'eau qui tombe est neige sur la montagne.

Da San Luca
El ton va in zuca—*Brescia :*
i.e., At St Luke's day the thunder goes into the gourds, *i.e.* goes away.

A la Saint Lu
Sème dru
Ou ne sème plus.—*Picardy.*

An Sanct Lucas spann die Ochsen an sei es nass oder trocken.

Por San Lucas
Mata tus puercos y tapa tas cubas—*Spain :*
i.e., At St Luke's day kill your pigs and bung up your barrels.

Da San Luca
Chi no ga semenà se speluca—*Venetia:*
i.e., He who has not sown by St Luke's day, tears his hair (for sorrow).

St Luke's little summer.

On St Luke's day
The oxen may play.

Up to St Luke's day put your hands where you like: after it, keep them in your pockets.—*Servia.*

21. (St Ursula.)
Sanct Ursula's Beginn
Zeigt auf den Winter hin.—*Austria.*

22. (St Vallier.)
A la Saint Vallier
La charrue sous le poirier:
La Toussaint venue
Quitte la charrue.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

28. (SS. Simon and Jude.)
Considered by many to be the first day of winter. Thus we find—
Sanct Simon eta Juda
Negua eldu da—*Basque:*
i.e., On SS. Simon and Jude's day winter comes in.

On SS. Simon and Jude winter approaches at a gentle trot.—*Gallicia.*

On SS. Simon and Jude the clods become hard.—*Poland.*

Simeon und Judä
Hängt an die Stauden Schnee.—*Suabia.*

Festa dies Judæ prohibet te incedere nudè,
Sed vult ut corpus vestibus omne tegas.
Festa dies Judæ quum transiit atque Simonis
In foribus nostris esse putatur hiems—*Buchler:*
And
Simonis Judæ post festum vae tibi nudè!
Tunc inflant genti mala gaudia veste carenti.

This day was accounted rainy by our ancestors as well as St Swithin's, for in the old play of the Roaring Girls occurs the following passage, "As well as I know 'twill rain upon Simon and Jude's day." And again, "Now a continual Simon and Jude's rain beat all your feathers as flat down as pancakes." And we learn from Holinshed that, in 1536, when a battle was appointed to have been fought upon this day, between the king's troops and the rebels, in Yorkshire, so great a quantity of rain fell upon the eve thereof as to prevent the battle from taking place.—*Brand.*

Simon und Juda
Ist kein Regen da,
Bringt ihn erst Cäcilia (November 22).—*Suabia.*

Per San Simon
Se cascia via el ceston:
i.e., On St Simon's day we throw the sickle away.

A la Saint Simon
Une mouche vaut un pigeon.—*Marne.*

31.

Le vent soufflera les trois quarts de l'année comme il souffle la veille de la Toussaint.—*Somme.*

NOVEMBER.

Cold.

If there's ice in November that will bear a duck,
There'll be nothing after but sludge and muck.

Thunder.

Thunder in November signifieth that same year to be fruitful and merry, and cheapness of corn.—*Book of Knowledge.*

Quand en Novembre il a tonné
L'hiver est avorté.—*Calvados.*

Donnert's im November, so giebt's in nächsten Jahre viel Getreide.

General.

November, take flail,
Let ships no more sail.—*Tusser.*

DAYS IN NOVEMBER.

1. (All Saints day.)

In some parts of Germany there is a proverb,
"All Saints day brings the second summer:"
While, as regards its length, they say that,
"All Saints summer lasts three hours, three days, or three weeks:"
And in Sweden there is often about this time a continuance of warm still weather which is called,
"The All Saint's rest."

In Shakespeare's 1st King Henry IV. act 1, scene 2, Prince Henry, likening Falstaff with his old age and young passions to this November summer, thus addresses him :

" Farewell, thou latter spring; farewell, thou All Hallow'n summer."

But still, in spite of the traditional mildness of this season, there are many proverbs which speak of the near approach of winter. Thus—

a. On All Saints day there is snow on the ground.

b. Alle Heiligen sehen sich nach dem Winter um.

c. Aller Hilgen,
Sit de Winter up den Tilgen.—*Holstein.*

d. A Agnissanti
Manicotto e guanti—*Tuscany :*

i.e., At All Saints take muff and gloves.

Se i Sant i troa 'l temp rot, lur i le giösta :
Ma se i le troa bu, i le disgiösta :

i.e., If All Saints find the weather disturbed, they settle it ; but if they find it fine they unsettle it.

On All Saints day, cut off some of the bark from a beech-tree, and after that, a chip or a little piece of wood : cut it : if it be dry, then the ensuing winter will be dry, but pretty warm and temperate ; if moist, a wet winter—*Shepherd's Kalendar :*

With which corresponds the old German saying,

Am Allerheiligentag' geh' in den Wald, und haue einen Span aus einer Birke : ist er trocken, wird der Winter kalt : ist er nass, so wird er feucht.

On the first of November, if the weather hold clear,
An end of wheat-sowing do make for the year.

A la Toussaint les blés semés
Et tous les fruits serrés.—*Eure et Loire.*

All Saints and All Souls.

Se i Sant i le disgiösta,
I Mort söbet i le giösta—*Lombardy:*
i.e., If All Saints unsettle the weather, All Souls set it to rights again.

All Saints and Christmas.

Tel Toussaint—tel Noel.—*Ain.*

Entre Toussaint et Noel ne peut trop pleuvoir ne venter.

All Saints and Candlemas.

Set trees at All Hallo'ntide, and command them to prosper: set them after Candlemas, and entreat them to grow.

"This Dr Beal allegeth as an old English and Welch proverb concerning apple and pear trees, oak and hawthorn quicks: though he is of Mr Reed's opinion, that it is best to remove fruit-trees in the spring, rather than the winter." —RAY.

2. (All Souls day.)

If it rain on this day the Dalmatians say,
"The dead are weeping."

8. St Michael the Archangel (in the Calendar of the Greek Church).

If St Michael binds (with ice), St Nicholas (Dec. 6) will loose.—*Russia.*

11. (St Martin.)

St Martin's little summer—*See on Oct.* 1:

So we find in 1st King Henry VI., act 1, scene 2,
"Expect St Martin's summer, halcyon days."

L'estat de San Marti
El dura tri de e'n pocheti—*Bergamo :*
i.e., S. Martin's summer lasts three days and a bit.

Il fait beau de semer son grain
Quand est beau l'été de la Saint Martin.—*Charente.*

Se a San Martin el sû va giò in bissacca
Vend el pan è tègn la vacca :
E se 'l va giò seren
Vend la vacca e tègnet el fen—*Milan :*
i.e., If on St Martin's day the sun set behind clouds, sell your bread and keep the cow : but if it set in a clear sky, sell the cow and keep your hay.

With which may be compared,
Si sol clarus obit Martino, nunciat acrem
Atque molestam hiemem ; si nubilus, aera mitem
Indicat hibernum : dant hæc prognostica natis
Pastores ovium, quum seria fantur ad ignem.—*Buchler.*

La pleine lune à la Saint Martin donne abondance de neige.—*Vosges.*

Wenn auf Martini Nebel sind
So wird der Winter ganz gelind.

If the wind is in the south-west at Martinmas, it remains there till after Candlemas.

Se gh'è vent a San Marti
Per töt l'an gh'è 'n pochi—*Bergamo :*
i.e., If there is wind on St Martin's day, it may blow the whole year and a bit more.

'Tween Martinmas and Yule,
Water's wine in every pool.—*Scotland.*

Young and old must go clad at Martinmas.

A San Martin
Mèt la legna sül camin—*Milan :*
i.e., On St Martin's day lay wood on the hearth.

At S. Martin's day
Winter is on his way.

Compare the French proverb,

Si l'hiver va droit son chemin,
Vous l'aurez à Saint Martin :
S'il n'arrête tant ne quant
Vous l'aurez à la Saint Clement (November 23) :
Et s'il trouve quelqu' encombrée,
Vous l'aurez à la Saint André (November 30) :
Mais s'il allait ce ne say, ne l'ay,
Vous l'aurez en Avril ou Mai.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Here comes St Martin on his white horse, *i.e.* bringing snow.—*Bohemia.*

Wenn das Brustbein an der gebratenen Martinsgans braun ist, sol es mehr Schnee als Kälte bedeuten; wenn es aber weiss ist, mehr Kälte als Schnee.

The fatted goose which is eaten in England on Michaelmas day always appears at tables on the Continent at Martinmas. Stukely, Iter. vi. 131, speaking of Martinsall Hill, adds in a note : "St Martin's day, in the Norway Clogs, is marked with a goose : for on that day they always feasted with a roasted goose : they say that St Martin, being elected to a bishopric, hid himself, but was discovered by that animal."

"The festival of St Martin occurring when geese are in high season, is always celebrated with a voracity the more eager, as it happens on the eve of the 'petit carême,'

when fowls could no longer be presented on the tables of a religious age. A German monk, Martin Schock, has made it a case of conscience whether, even on the eve of the little Lent, it be allowable to eat goose : 'An liceat Martinalibus anserem comedere.' "—FORSTER. (It may be observed that the casuist decides in the affirmative.)

In wine countries the new wines are first tasted on this day, and the memory of the Saint is celebrated with carousing. Hence the proverbs,—

A la Saint Martin
Bois le bon vin,
Et laisse l'eau pour le moulin.—*Tarn et Garonne.*

Festum Martini propinat pocula vini.

Per San Martin,
Se spina la bote del bon vin.—*Milan.*

Da San Martin
Se tasta 'l vin.—*Venetia.*

A la Saint Martin
Faut goûter le vin :
Notre Dame après
Pour boire il est prés.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

13. (St Homobonus.)

A Sant Omobù
Töc i strass i sa de bu.—*Bergamo :*

i.e., At St Homobonus all rags are good for something (because of the cold).

23. (St Clement.)

L'inverna a San Clement
El cascia on dent :

i.e., On St Clement's day winter sheds a tooth (begins to make itself felt).

Passé la Saint Clément
Ne sème plus froment.

25. (St Catherine.)

"St Catherine," say the Belgians, "by showing a bright face, often stops the long rains of autumn." And they have an old song,—

Sinte Katelyne
Laet het zonnyken schynen,
Laet den Regen overgaen,
Dat myn Kinderkens schole gaen.
Wie zal hun leeren?
Onze Lieven heere!
Wie zal ze trouwen?
Onze lieve Vrouwe!
Wie zal hun te eten geven?
Sinte Pieter de goede man,
Die alle kinderen geesselen kan.

But this saint often brings snow and cold weather, as the French proverb says,—

Saint Catherine vient blanc habillée.

So, too, we find,

Katharinenwinter—Plackwinter:
i.e., St Catherine's winter is a plaguy winter.

When St Catherine comes we have to toast our shins before the fire.—*Wallachia.*

Santa Catarina
La porta el sach de la farina—*Milan:*
i.e., St Catherine carries the flour-bag (snow.)

Per Santa Catarina
La nev a la collina—*Tuscany:*
i.e., On St Catherine's day the snow lies on the hills.

A Sainte Cathérine fais moudre ton blé.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Sünte Katherin
Smitt den ersten Sten innen Rhin ;
Sünte Gerderut
Tüht 'ne wi' er herut—*Cologne:*

i.e., Saint Catherine throws the first stone, *i.e.* freezes, into the Rhine ; St Gertrude takes it out again.

Wie Sanct Kathrein
Wird's Neujahr sein.—*Austria.*

A Sante Catherine, fai ta farine,
Sant André viendra, tapara lou vala, *i.e.* qui arrêtera le cours du canal.

A la Sainte Catherine
Tout bois prend racine.

30. (St Andrew.)
Andrehs
Brängk dä kahle Frehs, *i.e.* brings the cold frosts.
Andreas Schnee
Thut dem Korn weh,
Er ist aber ein besserer Trost,
Als Regen und Blachfrost.—*Wurzburg.*

Sunten Dresmisse
Es de Winter gewisse,
Kläsken derna
Süht me'ne vör allen Duören stan—*Westphalia:*

i.e., On the feast of St Andrew it is winter, of a truth : afterwards, on St Nicholas day, we see it before all our doors.

A Sant Andrea ol frèd
Al s'fa conoss a i lèt—*Bergamò :*
i.e., On St Andrew's day we feel the cold even in bed.

Andreas hell und klar
Bringt ein gutes Jahr.

If on St Andrew's day in the evening, much dew or wet remains on the grass, it betokens a wet season to follow: if dry, the contrary.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

On St Andrew's day
The night is twice as long as the day.

Saint André, Andréa,
Que n'es venu, que ne venas
A Toussaint, comme el' zautes—*Picardy :*

In Belgium, as well as in Germany and Bohemia, a singular custom prevails among the country people, by which they profess to be able to foretell the weather of the ensuing year. On the evening before St Andrew's day, they fill a glass brimful with water and let it stand all night. If any of the water has run over by morning, a wet year is expected, but if, on the other hand, none has escaped, a dry season is considered as certain to follow.

This mode of divination was also practised by our ancestors. It is mentioned in a curious old work in my possession, entitled 'The Husbandman's Practice, or Prognostication for ever,' p. 86.

DECEMBER.

Cold.

Dezember Kalt, mit Schnee,
Giebt Korn auf jeder Höh'.

Decembre davanti te scalda e dadrio t'incende.—*Venice.*

December, gran torment,
Denanz te giazza e dedrè 'l te offend—*Milan:*
i.e., That torment December! when he first comes, he freezes us: and when he leaves us, he is still plaguing us (with cold).

Thunder.

Si i·tonne in Décembre
L'hiver est corrompu, *i.e.* manqué.—*Nord.*

Thunder in December presages fair weather.

Thunder in December signifieth that same year cheapness of corn and wheat, with peace and accord among the people.—*Book of Knowledge.*

General.

December el tö e nol rend—*Milan:*
i.e., December takes away everything and returns nothing. Because in this month much fodder is used, while none is produced.

Le mois de l'Avent
Est de pluie et de vent.—*Aveyron.*

December and January.

December's frost and January's flood
Never boded the husbandman's good.

Advent.

La néou des Abéns
A longues déns.—*Haute Garonne.*

De l' bruen dins ch's Avints,
Sène d' boco d' pins, *i.e.* pommes.—*Nord.*

Dans l'Avent, le temps chaud
Remplit caves et tonneaux.—*Ain.*

Quand les Avents sont secs, l'année sera abondante. —*Vosges.*

Dins l'Avints de Noué
I'n peut trop pluvoir ni vinter.

DAYS IN DECEMBER.

2. (St Bibiana.)

Se 'l piöv a Santa Bibiana
El piöv quaranta dì è onæ setimana—*Milan :*
i.e., If it rain on St Bibiana's day, it will rain for forty days and a week.

4. (St Barbara.)

On St Barbara's day put the scythe away for the winter.—*Lithuania.*

Barbara makes bridges (of ice); Sara (Dec. 5) sharpens the nails, and Nicolas (Dec. 6) drives them in.—*Russia.*

6. (St Nicolas.)

Si yver estoit oultre la mer si viendra il à Saint Nicolas parler.

St Nicolas washes the river-banks—*Bohemia :*
Because wet weather often occurs at this season.

St Nicolas in winter sends the horses to the stable; St Nicolas in spring (May 9) makes them fat. —*Russia.*

8. (Immaculate conception of B. V. M.)

Nostro Damo des Abéns
Plexos et béns, *i.e.* pluie et vents,
Et bounetos sur les dens.—*Tarn.*

11. (The fourteen Halcyon days ("Alcyonii dies" in the Roman Calendar) began to-day.)

"The fact, on which they founded their existence, was the calm weather which at this time of year on the shores of the Mediterranean usually succeeds the blustering winds of the end of autumn. The reason why these days were called Halcyon or Alcyon requires some further explanation. Alcyone was the daughter of Æolus; she was married to Ceyx, who was drowned as he was going to Claros to consult the oracle. The gods apprised Alcyone in a dream of her husband's fate; and when she found, on the morrow, his body washed on the sea-shore, she threw herself into the sea, and was with her husband changed into birds of the same name, who keep the waters calm and serene, while they build and sit on their nests on the surface of the sea, for the space of seven, eleven, or fourteen days." — FORSTER.

Non tepidi ad solem pennas in littore pandunt
Dilectæ Thetidi alcyones.—*Georg.*, I. 339.

And see under "Kingfisher," in Prognostics from Birds.

13. (St Lucy.)

If St Lucy's day be bright, Christmas day will be dark with snow; but if the snow fall on St Lucy, Christmas will be clear and sunny.—*Sardinia.*

In the old Calendar this was the shortest day of the year. Hence the proverbs,

Lucy Light,
The shortest day and the longest night.

Sanct Lucen
Macht den Tag stutzen.

Santa Lucia
La note più longa che sia—*Venetia :*
i.e., St Lucy has the longest night.

Santa Lucia,
Il più corto di che sia—*Tuscany :*
i.e., St Lucy has the shortest day.

Lengthening of the day.
Sünter Luzigge•
Got dai Dage to digge—*Westphalia :*
i.e., On St Lucy's day the days begin to lengthen.

A la Sainte Luce
Le jour croist le saut d'une puce.

Da Santa Lüzia a Nadal
On pas d'ün gal :
E da Nadal a Pasquèta
I giornat cressen n'oreta—*Bergamo :*
i.e., From St Lucy to Christmas the days lengthen by a cock's stride ; and from Christmas to Epiphany by nearly an hour.

A Santa Lüzia
El frèd el pia—*Milan :*
i.e., On St Lucy's day the cold is biting.

"On this day," says Brand, "prognostications of the months were drawn for the whole year."

13-24.

The twelve days which precede Christmas are called in some parts of France "jours compteurs,"

because they are supposed to represent, month by month, the weather of the ensuing year.

21. (St Thomas.)

St Thomas grey, St Thomas grey,
The longest night and shortest day.

If it freezes on the shortest day of the year, the price of corn will fall; if it be mild weather, it will go up.—*Belgium.*

A la Saint Thomas
Les jours sont au plus bas.

In Picardy there is a proverb, referring to the lengthening of the days,

Al Saint Thomas
Du seut' d'un cat:
Au Noe
Du saut d'un beaudet:
Au bon an
D'un pas de sergent:
Aux Rois
On s'en apperçoit:
Al candelée (Feb. 2)
A toute allée.

Da San Tomio
Le zornae torna indrio—*Venice:*
i.e., After St Thomas's day the days begin to lengthen.

Sant Tommè,
Cresce il di quanto il gallo abza un piè—*Tuscany:*
i.e., On St Thomas's day the day lengthens by as much as a cock raises his foot.

Look at the weathercock on St Thomas's day at

12 o'clock, and see which way the wind is; there it will stick for the next three months.

24. (SS. Adam and Eve.)

Wie die Witterung an Adam und Eva, so bleibt sie bis Ende des Monats, und auch wohl im nächsten Jahr, nass oder trocken.—*Saxony.*

25. (Christmas day.)

Cold.

Da Nadal,
Un fredo coral:
De la vecchia
Un fredo che se crepa—*Venetia:*

i.e., At Christmas the cold is piercing: at Epiphany it is perishing.

Wenn de hillige Christ en Brügge find't, so brickt he se, un find't he keene, so maakt he eene—*Holstein:*

i.e., If the holy Christ finds a bridge (of ice), he breaks it; if he does not find one, he makes one.

Warm.

A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard.

Wintert's vor Weihnachten nicht, so wintert's nach.

It is better to have the plague, than a south wind on Christmas day.—*Servia.*

Wet.

Le jour de Noël humide
Donne grenier et tonneau vides.—*Moselle.*

Weihnachten nass,
Leere Speicher und Fass.

Bright Sun.

"If the sun shines clear and bright on Christmas day, it promises a peaceful year, free from clamours and strife, and foretells much plenty to ensue; but if the wind blow stormy towards sunset, it betokens sickness in the spring and autumn quarters."—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

If the sun shines through the apple-trees on Christmas day, there will be an abundant crop the following year.

Moon.

"When Christmas day cometh while the moon waxeth, it shall be a very good year, and the nearer it cometh to the new moon, the better shall that year be. If it cometh when the moon decreaseth, it shall be a hard year, and the nearer the latter end thereof it cometh, the worse and harder shall the year be."—*Husbandman's Practice.*

"Le jour de Noël, si la lune luit pour aller à la messe de minuit et pour en revenir, il y aura pleine année de pommes; si elle n'éclaire que pour aller ou revenir, il y aura seulement demi-année; il n'y aura rien si elle n'éclaire pas du tout."—*Manche.*

Cum Lunâ crescente redit natalis Jesu,
Annus consequitur fertilitate bonus;
Sin redit ut minui patitur sibi cornua Luna,
Anno sunt mala non pauca ferenda novo.

Finstere heilige Nacht, lichte Heustädl: mondlichte heilige Nacht, dunkle Heustädl.—*Tyrol.*

Ist die Christnacht hell und klar
Folgt ein höchst gesegnet Jahr.

God forbid that Christmas should be bright, and S. George's night be dark.—*Servia.*

A dark Christmas foretells that cows will give much milk: a bright Christmas, that hens will lay well.—*Russia; Bohemia.*

Weihnachten klar,
Gutes Weinjahr.

Noel sans lune
De cent brebis il n'en restera pas une.

But on the other hand,

A black Christmas, a heavy sheaf.

And

Quan Nadaou és à l'escuragno
Forço blat à la campagno:
Quan Nadaou és à la clarétat
Forço garbo, paou de blat.

i.e., Quand Noël est dans l'obscurité
Beaucoup de blé dans les champs:
Quand Noël est éclairé
Beaucoup de paille et peu de blé.

General Prognostics.

Si pour la Noël à ton souper,
Le bout de la chandelle n'a pas courbé,
Il y aura maigre récolte en blé.—*Vaucluse.*

"The wise and cunning masters in astrology have found, that

men may see and mark the weather of the holy Christmas night, how the whole year after shall be in his working and doing, and they shall speak on this wise:

"When on the Christmas night and evening it is very fair and clear weather, and is without wind and rain, then it is a token that this year will be plenty of wine and fruite.

"But if the contrariwise, foul weather and windy, so shall it be very scant of wine and fruite.

"But if the wind arise at the rising of the sun, then it betokeneth great dearth among beasts and cattle this year.

"But if the wind arise at the going down of the same, then it signifieth death to come among kings and other great lords."—*Husbandman's Practice.*

Christmas to Epiphany.

If it rain much during the twelve days after Christmas, it will be a wet year.

Wenn's von Weihnacht bis heilige drei Könige neblig und dunkel ist, werden viel Krankheiten im Jahre sein.—*Rhine.*

"When on Christmas even at midnight, the wind waxeth still, it betokeneth a fruitful year; when on the twelfth day afore day, it is somewhat windy, that betokeneth great plenty of oil.

"When the sun on the twelfth day in the morning doth shine, that betokeneth foul weather. In the beginning it is never steadfast weather, for the months go all one through another the same day. If it be fair weather that day, it is happy

and fortunate. The sixth day after the first day, is the last day, so that the first is last, and that in the six days every day leaveth behind him two months.

"Also that the second day leaveth February afore noon, and January at the afternoon, and so forth do all the other days."—*Husbandman's Practice.*

The interval between Christmas and Epiphany, comprising twelve days, is called in some parts of France—*e.g.*, in the department of Haute Saône—"Les jours des lots." During these twelve days the following steps are taken to ascertain the weather of the coming year :—

On Christmas day, twelve onions, each with a pinch of salt on the top, are placed in a row: the first in order, beginning on the left, representing the month of January, the second the month of February, and so on.

On the Feast of Epiphany, which is the second of the "jours des lots," the onions are examined. If the salt on any one has melted, the month with which it corresponds will be wet: where the salt still remains, that month will be dry.

Les douze jours entre Noël et les Rois
Indiquent le temps des douze mois de l'année.

On the first day of the Lord's birth festivals, if the sun shine, there shall be much joy among men and abundance.

If the sun shines on the second day, then gold shall be easy to get among the English.

If the sun shines on the third day, then shall be a

great fight among poor men, and abundant peace between kings and powerful men.

If the sun shines on the fourth day, then the camels shall bear off much gold from the emmets which should guard the hoard of gold.—(See Herodotus, III. 102.)

If the sun shines on the fifth day, then shall be a great bloom of fruit that year.

If the sun shines on the sixth day, the Lord shall send much milk.

If the sun shines on the seventh day, then will be a good crop on trees.

If the sun shines on the eighth day, then quicksilver shall be easy to get.

If the sun shines on the ninth day, then God shall send a great baptism that year.

If the sun shines on the tenth day, then shall the sea and all rivers be well supplied with fish.

If the sun shines on the eleventh day, then shall be a great trial of death among men.

If the sun shines on the twelfth day, men shall be weak, and there shall be much quiet on earth.

The above prognostications are from a MSS. Bib. Bodl., MS. Junius 23, fol. 148, A.D. 1120; quoted in 'Leechdoms, Wortcunning and Starcraft of Early England:' edited by the Rev. O. Cockayne; and published under direction of the Master of the Rolls.

Christmas and Epiphany.

Da Nadal,
Un fredo coral,

De la veccia,
Un fredo che se erepa—*Venice:*
i.e., At Christmas the cold is heart-piercing: at Epiphany-tide it is perishing.

The Bergamese say,
A nadal
El fred fa mal,
A la Ecia
L'è 'n fred che sa crèpa.

Christmas and Candlemas.

Entre Noël et la Chandeleur,
Il vaut mieux voir un loup aux champs
Qu'un carton (knave) laboureur.—*Nord.*

A windy Christmas and a calm Candlemas are signs of a good year.

Christmas and Carnival.

Nadal nebius—Carneal arius.
i.e., A cloudy Christmas—a fine Carnival.

Christmas and Easter.

In weather-lore Christmas and Easter are almost inseparably connected. Thus,

A warm Christmas—a cold Easter.

A green Christmas—a white Easter.

Sua, eguberris sump'urrequi;
Pascos, aldis adarrequi—*Basque:*
i.e., We must make up our fires at Christmas with logs, and at Easter with branches.

Grüne Weihnacht—weisse Ostern.

Weihnacht im Klee,
Ostern im Schnee.

Chresdag an der Dühr,
Ostern öm et Für.

A Noel au balcon,
A Pâques au tison.

A Noël les moucherons,
A Pâques les glaçons.

General Proverbs respecting Christmas.

Fina a Nadal nè frèd nè fam :
De Nadal in là,
Frèd e fam i se ne va :

i.e., Up to Christmas, neither cold nor hunger : after Christmas, cold, hunger, and snow.

Up to Christmas, it is "Kraljewitsch Marko !" *i.e.* song and dance.

After Christmas, it is "Alas, my mother !" *i.e.* weeping and sorrow.—*Herzegovina.*

Après grant joie vient grant ire (colère),
Et après Noël vent bise.

Christmas day falling on the different days of the week.

Quando Natale vien di Dominica,
Vendi la tonica per comprar la melica—*Tuscany :*

i.e., When Christmas day falls on a Sunday, sell your coat and buy maize (because the year will be unfruitful).

Si Noué toumbo un luns (lundi)
Qui a dous bous n'en tuéni un ;
Si Noué es sen luno,
Qui a dous fies (brebis) n'en tuéni uno.—*Hautes Alpes.*

Noel le jeudi—c'est la famine.—*Gers.*

The following very curious early poem (MS. Harl. 2252, fol. 154) is given in Brand, i. 478 :—

" Lordynges, I warne you ale beforne,
Yef that day that Cryste was borne
Falle uppon a Sunday,
That winter shalbe good, par fay,
But grete windes alofte shalbe,
The somer shalbe fayre and drye ;
By kynde skylle, wythowtyn lesse,
Throw all londes shalbe peas,
And good tyme all thynges to don
But he that stelythe, he shalbe fownde sone :
Whate chylde that day borne be,
A grete lorde he shalle ge, &c.

Yf Crystemas day on Monday be,
A grete wynter that year have shall ye,
And fulle of wyndes, lowde and stylle,
But the somer, trewly to telle,
Shalbe sterne wyndes also,
And fulle of tempeste all thereto ;
All batayle multiplye,
And grete plenty of beeve shall dye.
They that be borne that daye, I weene,
They shalbe stronge eche on and kene
And he that stelythe owghte :
Thow thowe be seke, thou dyeste not.

Yf Crystmas day on Tuysday be,
That year shall dyen wemen plenté
And that wynter wex greter marvaylys :
Shyppys shalbe in grete perylles ;

That yere shall kynges and lordes be slayne,
And myche hothyr pepylle agayn heym.
A drye somer that yere shalbe;
Alle that be borne there in may se,
They shalbe stronge and covethowse.
If thou stele awghte, thou lesyste the lyfe,
Thou shalte dye throwe swerde or knyfe;
But and thow fall seke, sertayne,
Thou shalte turne to lyfe agayne.

Yf Crystmas day, the sothe to say,
Fall uppon a Wodnysday,
That yere shalbe an harde wynter and strong,
And many hydeus wyndes amonge:
The somer mery and good shalbe,
That year shalbe wete grete plenté:
Young folke shall dye that year also,
And shyppes in the see shall have grete woo.
What childe that daye borne ys,
He shalbe dowghte and lyghte i-wysse,
And wyse and slyee also of dede,
And fynde many men mete and wede.

Yf Crystmas day on Thursday be,
A wyndy wynter see shalle yee,
Of wyndes and weders all weked.
And harde tempestes stronge and thycke.
The somer shalbe good and drye,
Cornys and bestes shall multiplye,
That yere ys good londes to tylthe,
And kynges and prynces shall dye by skylle:
What chylde that day borne bee,
Hee shalle have happe ryghte well to the,

Of dedes hee shalbe goode and stabylle,
Of speche and tonge wyse and reasonabylle:
Who so that day ony thefte abowte,
He shalbe shente wyth-owtyn dowte:
And yf sekenes on the that day betyde,
Hyt shall sone fro the glyde.

Yf Crystmas day on the Fryday be,
The fyrste of wynter harde shalbe,
With froste and snowe, and with flode,
But the laste ende thereof ys goode.
Agayn, the somer shalbe good also,
Folkes in hyr yere shall have grete woo:
Wemen wyth chyld, bestes wyth corne,
Shall multiplye, and none be borne:
The chylde that ys borne that daye,
Shall longe lyve and lecherowus be aye:
Who so stelythe awghte, he shalbe fownde,
And thow be seke, hyt lastythe not longe.

Yf Crystmas on the Saterday falle,
That wynter ys to be dredden alle,
Hyt shalbe so full of grete tempeste,
That hyt shall sle bothe man and beste,
Frute and corne shall fayle grete won,
And olde folke dyen many on:
Whate woman that day of chylde travayle,
They shalbe borne in grete perelle;
And chyldren that be borne that day,
Within halfe a yere they shall dye, par fay;
The somer then shall wete ryghte ylle:
If thou awghte stele, hyt shal the spylle:
Thou dyest yf sekenes take the."

Prognostications of the same character are to be found in 'The Book of Knowledge,' p. 2; and 'The Husbandman's Practice,' p. 78.

26. (St Stephen.)

Bläst der Wind am Stephanitag recht,
Wird der Wein auf's Jahr schlecht.—*Swabia.*

27. (St John the Evangelist.)

Ist der Johannistag dunkel, so folgt ein gutes Jahr.

A la Saint Jean
Renouvelle l'an.

28. (Innocents Day.)

If it be lowering or wet on Childermas Day, it threatens scarcity and mortality among the weaker sort of young people; but if the day be very fair, it promises plenty.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

30. (St David.)

In Belgium it is believed that a branch of elder, placed in a jug of water on this day, will foretell the weather of the ensuing summer and autumn. If the buds develop themselves and open freely, the summer will be fruitful; if the contrary happens, a bad harvest is expected.

31. (St Silvester.)

Silvester Wind, früh Sonnenschein
Bringt selten einen guten Wein.

Le vent qui souffle à l'issue de la messe de minuit sera le vent dominant de l'année.—*Vosges.*

If New Year's Eve night wind blows south,
It betokeneth warmth and growth:
If west, much milk, and fish in the sea:
If north, much cold and storms there'll be:
If east, the trees will bear much fruit;
If north-east, flee it man and brute—*Scotland:*

"The Highlanders," says Pennant, Tour in Scotland, 1772, Part II., p. 48, "form a sort of almanac, or presage of the weather of the ensuing year, in the following manner: They make observations on twelve days, beginning at the last of December; and hold as an infallible rule, that whatsoever weather happens on each of those days, the same will prove to agree on the corresponding months. Thus, January is to answer to the weather of December 31st, February to that of January the 1st, and so with the rest."

(See also on January the 2d, January the 25th, and Christmas Day.)

"If any wood be cut off in the last day of December, and on the first of January, it shall not rot nor wither away, nor be full of worms, but always wear harder, and in his age as hard as a stone." —*Husbandman's Practice.*

WEATHER AND AGRICULTURAL RULES,

RELATING TO DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Säe Korn Egidii, Hafer Gerste Benedicti,
Für Flachs und Hanf, Urbani: Wicken, Rüben, Kiliani:
Viti, Kraut: Erbsen, Gregori:
Linsen, Philippi Jacobi:

Abdon und Senesi mache Ernt',
Denk' an Salzfleisch an Lambert.
Mach' Würst' um Martini,
Brat' Gäns' an Oswaldi;
Kauf' Käse und grab' Rüben Vicula Petri:
Schneid' Kraut Simonis und Judäi:
Fang' Wachteln Bartolomäi:
Simonis und Judä
Vœ tibi endi!
Heiz' warm Natali Domini.
Iss Lammsbraten Blasi,
Güten Häring "Oculi mei."
Trink Wein circulum anni,
So kannst abgehen tempore anni—*Suabia:*

i.e., Sow corn on St Giles (Sept. 1), oats and barley on S. Benedict (March 21), flax and hemp on S. Urban (May 25), vetches and rape on S. Kilian (July 8). On S. Vitus (June 15) cabbage, on S. Gregory (March 12) peas, lentils on SS. Philip and James (May 1). On SS. Abdon and Senesis (July 30) begin harvest; remember to put meat in pickle on S. Lambert (Sept. 17). Make sausages on S. Martin (Nov. 11), roast geese on S. Oswald (Oct. 15), buy cheese and dig turnips at Lammas (Aug. 1), cut cabbage on SS. Simon and Jude (Oct. 28), catch quails on S. Bartholomew (Aug. 24). On SS. Simon and Jude, woe to you if badly clad! Keep warm at Christmas. Eat roast lamb on S. Blasius (Feb. 3), and herrings on "Oculi mei" (the third Sunday in Lent). Drink wine all the year round, and thus you will be ready to die at any time.

PROVERBS RELATING TO DAYS OF THE WEEK.

Sunday.

If it rains on the Sunday before mess (mass),
It will rain all the week, more or less.—*Fifeshire.*

Compare the French proverbs,

a. Du Dimanche au matin la pluie
Bien souvent la semaine ennuie.

b. Quand il pleût le Dimanche entre deux messes,
il pleut toute la semaine.

And the German,

c. Regnet's Sonntag über das Messbuch,
So hat man die ganze Woch' genug.—*Eifel.*

d. Es ist kein Sonntag so keck,
Dass er die Sonn' den ganzen Tag versteck'.—*Tyrol.*

e. Wenn's regnet auf den Kirchenpfad, ist's die ganze Woche nass.

f. Wenn's an einem Sonntag regnet, an dem ein grünes Messkleid getragen wird, so regnet's neun Sonntage hintereinander—*Tyrol:*

This is equivalent to saying that most Sundays in the year will be wet, as green is generally used throughout the Western Church as the ferial and Sunday colour out of Advent, Septuagesima, and Lent.

Monday.

Rauher Monntag—glatter Woche.

So the French say,

Vilain Lundi, belle semaine.—*Manche.*

Montag's Wetter wird nicht Wochenalt.—*Brunswick.*

Montag's Wetter bis Mittag ist Wochenwetter bis Freitag.

Thursday.

Quando 'l sol va in saco de Zioba,
Avanti Domenega o vento o piova—*Venetia:*
i.e., When on Thursday the sun sets in a sack (behind clouds), there will be rain or wind before Sunday.

Friday.

Vendredi aimerait mieux causer
Qu'à son voisin ressembler.—*Haute Saône.*
Because it is supposed to differ from the weather of the rest of the week. So too they say in Westphalia,
Freitag hat sein apartes Wetter.

Die ganze Woche wunderlich,
Des Freitags ganz absunderlich.

Wenn's am Freitag regnet, regnet's eine ganze Woche.—*Tyrol.*

S'il pleut le Vendredi
Jamais la terre trop ne se ramollit.—*Haute Saône.*

Vendredi de la semaine est
Le plus beau ou le plus laid.—*Haute Loire.*

Friday and Saturday.

Freitags wunderlich,
Samstags absunderlich.—*Eifel.*

Friday and Sunday.

A rainy Friday—a rainy Sunday:
A fair Friday—a fair Sunday.

So the French say,
Quel est Vendredi—tel Dimanche.
And the Germans,
Freitagswetter—Sonntagswetter.

Saturday.

The sun is supposed always to shine on Saturday (if not throughout the day, at least during some portion of it) in honour of the Virgin Mary, to whom this day is specially dedicated. Thus in the Eifel they say,

Es ist kein Samstag so trüb',
Die Sonn' scheint der Mutter Gottes zulieb.

En hiver, comme en été,
Jamais Samédi ne s'est passé,
Que le soleil n'y ait mis son nez.—*Haute Saône.*

Le soleil par excellence
Au Samédi fait sa révérence.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Il n'y a pas de Samédi sans soleil,
Ni de vielle sans conseil.—*Aveyron.*

Ni Sabado sin sol, ni moza sin amor—*Spain:*
i.e., No Saturday without sun, no girl without love.

Saturday and Sunday.

Soterdag natt vom Werken,
Un Sundag.natt ut der Kerken,
Bedüt eine reinke Weke—*Lippe:*
i.e., If on Saturday it is too wet to work, and on Sunday too wet to go to church, the week will be rainy.

Samstag in der Vesper und Sonntags in der Messe ist das Wochenwetter gewiss—*Munster:*
i.e., The weather during vespers on Saturday, and during mass, *i.e.*, early in the morning, on Sunday, foretells the weather of the whole week.

PART II.

PART II.

PROVERBS RELATING TO THE SUN.

Sol quoque et exoriens, et quum se condit in undas,
Signa dabit; solem certissima signa sequuntur,
Et quæ mane refert, et quæ surgentibus astris.—
Georgicon, lib. I. 438-40.

Sunrise—Red.

If red the sun begins his race,
Be sure the rain will fall apace.

"A red morn, that ever yet betokened
Wreck to the seamen, tempest to the field,
Sorrow to shepherds, woe unto the birds,
Gust and foul flaws to herdsmen and to herds."
—*Shakespeare: Venus and Adonis.*

Ross de matina, aqua visina—*Milan:*
i.e., If the morn be red, rain is at hand.

Ross a la diana, aqua in la setimana—*Bergamo:*
i.e., If the sky be red when the morning-star is shining, there will be rain during the week.

Morgenroth—Abendkoth.—*Tyrol.*

Morgenroth
Mit Regen droht.

Temps rouge au matin
Met la pluie en chemin.

Roujhé de mati
Bagno soun versi—*Gard:*
i.e., A red morning wets the neighbour.

Aube rouge, vent ou pluie :
Exactly corresponding with the Italian saying.
Alba rossa—o vent o gossa :
And the Spanish,
Aurora rubia, o viento o lluvia.
Rouge le matin
Fait tourner le moulin.— *Vosges.*

Cloudy.

Ille ubi nascentem maculis variaverit ortum
Conditus in nubem, medioque refugerit orbe :
Suspecti tibi sint imbres ; namque urget ab alto
Arboribusque satisque notus pecorique sinister.
Aut ubi sub lucem densa inter nubila sese
Diversi rumpent radii, aut ubi pallida surget
Tithoni croceum linquens Aurora cubile ;
Heu male tum mites defendet pampinus uvas
Tam multa in tectis crepitans salit horrida grando.
—*Georgicon*, lib. I. 441-49.

Grauer Morgen—schöner Tag.

Matinée obscure—journée sure.—*Drôme.*

Rother and brauner Morgen
Ist des Wandrers Wunsch und Sorgen.

Sunrise—Clear.

Se 'l sol va a monte a ciel seren
El bon tempo se mantien—*Venice:*

i.e., If the sky be clear and bright at sunrise we shall have fine weather.

Nigoi ciar de matina
Bel temp se incamina—*Bergamo:*

i.e., If the clouds are clear in the morning, fine weather is setting in. But the Spaniards say,

Sol madruguero
No dura dia entero:

i.e., The sun, rising bright and clear, does not remain so throughout the day.

Sunset—Red.

Hoc etiam, emenso quum jam decedet Olympo,
Profuerit meminisse magis; nam sæpe videmus
Ipsius in vultu varios errare colores;
Cæruleus pluviam denuntiat, igneus euros.
Sin maculæ incipient rutilo immiscerier igni,
Omnia tunc pariter vento nimbisque videbis
Fervere: non illâ quisquam me nocte per altum
Ire, neque a terrâ moneat convellere funem.—*Georgicon*, lib. I. 450-57.

Ross de sera, bel temp se spera.—*Milan.*

Abendroth—Gutwetterbrot.

Le ciel rouge le soir,
Le lendemain beau se fait voir.—*Pyrénées.*

Au coucher du soleil, si les nuages sont rouges au levant,
Pour le lendemain c'est beau temps.—*Eure et Loir.*

Le ciel rouge au soleil couchant
Annonce la pluie ou le vent.

Quind à ch' solau couqué
L' timps est couleur ed' feu,
Chest du vin (vent) pour l'indemain.—*Nord.*

Le temps cuivreux au couchant
Annonce de la pluie surement.—*Vosges.*

Cloudy.

When the sun sets in a bank
A westerly wind we shall not lack.

Quan lou soureil sé coutcho dam b'un capèt,
Anounço qué lendouman sera pas bèt—*Garonne: i.e.*, When the sun sets with a hat on (in clouds), that foretells wet weather for the morrow.

Pale.

If the sun goes pale to bed,
'Twill rain to-morrow, it is said.

Bright.

When the sun sets bright and clear
An easterly wind you need not fear.

Wet.

"The sun sets weeping in the lowly west,
Witnessing storms to come, woe and unrest."—*Richard II.*, act ii. sc. iv.

At si, quum referetque diem condetque relatum,
Lucidus orbis erit; frustra terrebere nimbis,
Et claro silvas cernes aquilone moveri.—*Georgicon*, lib. I. 458-60.

"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red; and in the morning, It will be

foul weather to-day, for the sky is red and lowring."—*S. Matt.* xvi. 2, 3.

Sky red in the morning
Is a sailor's sure warning;
Sky red at night
Is the sailor's delight.

Sero rubens cælum cras indicat esse serenum:
At si mane rubet venturos indicat imbres.

Gois gorriac, dakarke vri,
Arrats gorriac, eguraldi—*Basque:*
i.e., A red morning foretells rain; a red evening, fine weather.

When in the morning the clouds are red on the side of Navarre, the Basques say,

Gox gorri de Navarra
Remojar te ha la çamarra:
i.e., A red morning over Navarre will wet us; but when in the evening the clouds are red on the side of Castille, they say,

Arras gorri de Castilla
Calentar te ha la costilla:
i.e., A red evening over Castille will warm our sides.

Rouge le matin
C'est de la pluie pour le voisin:
Rouge du couchant
Promet beau temps.—*Morbihan.*

Rouge de soir,
Bon espoir:
Rouge du matin
Trompe le voisin.—*Basses Alpes.*

Les rougeurs du matin
Font tourner le moulin:
Les rougeurs du soir
Font sêcher les toits.—*Jura.*

Rougie du matin fait pleurer le pèlerin:
Rougie du soir fait tarir la mer.—*Saône et Loire.*

Abends roth ist Morgens gut,
Morgens roth thut selten gut.—*Eifel.*

Abendroth
Gut Wetter bot:
Morgenroth
Bringt Wind und Koth.

And so the Venetians say,
Nuvola rossa a sera,
Bon tempo se spera:
Nuvola rossa a matina
O vento o piovesina.

Abendroth ist got (gut),
Man Morgenroth gift Water in'n Slot (ditch).—*Westphalia.*

A red sunset and a red sunrise are not the same thing.—*Denmark.*

A red sunset says, Get your horse ready:
A red sunrise says, Bring him out of the field.—*Malta.*

But the Bohemians say,
A red sunrise betokens a fine day: a red sunset, rain.

Evening grey and morning red,
Make the shepherd hang his head:
Or,
Evening red and morning grey,
Help the traveller on his way:
Evening grey and morning red,
Bring down rain upon his head.

Evening red and morning grey,
Two sure signs of a fine day.

If the evening is red and the morning grey,
It is the sign of a bonnie day:
If the evening's grey and the morning red,
The lamb and the ewe will go wet to bed.—*Yarrow.*

Rouge soirée et grise matinée
Sont signes de belle journée.—*Côte d'Or.*

Rouge le soir, blanc le matin
C'est la journée du pèlerin:
Blanc le soir, rouge le matin
Fait tourner la roue du moulin.—*Ardennes.*

Rosso de sera,
Bon tempo se spera:
Bianco de matina,
Bon tempo se incamina.—*Venice.*

Der Morgen grau, der Abend roth,
Ist ein guter Wetterbot':
Der Abend roth, der Morgen grau,
Bringt das schönste Tages blau.

Roth Abend- und weisse Morgenröth'
Macht, dass der Wand'rer freudig geht.

Sera rosa e nigro matino
Allegra il pellegrino.

PROVERBS RELATING TO THE MOON.

Will das Wetter durchaus nicht stehen,
Wird's am Neu oder Vollmond geschehen.

Le laboureur lunier (who believes in the influence of the moon)
Ne remplit pas son grenier.—*Haute Loire.*

Qui lunatte
Folatte.—*Ain.*

New Moon.

A new moon soon seen is long thought of.

"My lord, doe you see this change i' the moone?
Sharp hornes doe threaten windy weather."—Decker's *Match Mee in London*, act i. Lond., 1631, 4to.

The Germans say, however,

Wenn die Mondhörner zwischen Neumond und ersten Viertel klar spitz und deutlich erscheinen, deutet's auf gutes Wetter: erscheinen sie trüb' und stumpf, hat man schlechtes veränderliches Wetter zu erwarten.

When the new moon is in such a part of the ecliptic as to appear turned much over upon her back, wet weather is expected: thus,

The bonny moon is on her back,
Mend your shoon and sort your thack.—*Scotland.*

To see the old moon in the arms of the new one,

is reckoned a sign of fine weather ; and so is the turning up of the horns of the new moon.

In this position it is supposed to retain the water which is imagined to be in it.—SUFFOLK.

Il fait beau temps quand les cornes de la lune sont en haut, mauvais temps lorsqu'elles sont en bas. —*Gers.*

Lune quillarde (with its horns upwards)
Terre bagnarde :
Lune pendante
Terre fendante.—*Lot et Garonne.*

Si les cornes de la lune sont tournées vers la mer, il y aura des débordements dans l'année.—*Gers.*

Gòba a ponent, lüna cressent,
Gòba a levant, lüna calant—*Milan :*

i.e., When the convex side of the moon is towards the west, the moon is on the increase ; when it is towards the east, she is on the wane.

Observe de la lune
Les cent heures premières :
S'il ne pleut pas dans aucune,
Belle sera la lune entière.—*Côte d'Or.*

Nouvelle lune par le beau
Au bout de trois jours donne de l'eau :
Quand la lune prend dans l'eau,
Le troisième jour il fait beau.—*Meurthe.*

(Misty.)

Les brouillards en lune jeune sont un signe de beau temps.

An old moon in a mist
Is worth gold in a kist:
But a new moon's mist
Will never lack thirst.

Another version is,

Auld moon mist
Ne'er died of thirst.

Luna revertentes quum primum colligit ignes,
Si nigrum obscuro comprenderit aera cornu,
Maximus agricolis pelagoque parabitur imber.—*Georgicon*, lib. I., 427-29.

(Windy.)

Neumond mit Wind
Ist zu Regen und Schnee gesinnt.

Change of Moon.

La lune est perilleuse au cinq,
Au quatre, six, huit, et vingt.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Prima et secunda, nihil,
Tertia aliquid:
Quarta quinta qualis,
Tota luna talis.

And so Virgil, *Georg.*, I. 432-35:

Sin ortu quarto, namque is certissimus auctor,
Pura neque obtusis per cælum cornibus ibit:
Totus et ille dies, et qui nascentur ab illo
Exactum ad mensem, pluviâ ventisque carebunt.

The fourth day is also considered as critical in France and Germany: thus,

Tel est le quatrième jour de la lune, tel sera le

temps de la lune entière, à moins que le sixième n'apporte un changement—*Ain:*

And,

Wie der Wind am 3, besonders aber um 4, und 5. Tage nach dem Neumond ist, so weht er den ganzen Mond hindurch.

In Belgium they say,

If the moon shines clear and bright on the fourth day, there will be fine weather; if it is clouded, there will be rain; and if on the sixth day it be flame-coloured, there will be storm and tempest.

(Mist.)

Brouillard dans le croissant
C'est signe de beau temps:
Brouillard dans le décours
C'est de la pluie avant trois jours.—*Pas de Calais.*

(Frost.)

Gelée blanche au croissant
Marque de beau temps;
Gelée blanche au décours,
De la pluie sous trois jours.—*Calvados.*

La lune changeant en bèt (beau)
Pluie du huit au sept.—*Hautes Pyrénées.*

In the wane of the moon
A cloudy morning bodes a fair afternoon.

(Wind.)

Le grand vent en vieille lune est un indice de beau temps.—*Cher.*

Full Moon.

The full moon eats clouds.
La lune mange des nuages.

La luna scoa via le nuvole—*Venice:*

"These proverbs have arisen from a supposed clearance of clouds which is said to take place when the full moon rises."—*Inwards.*

Two full moons in a calendar month bring on a flood.—*Bedfordshire.*

Halo round the Moon.

The halo or burr seen round the moon, being a consequence of the humidity of the atmosphere, is considered very generally to forebode wet weather. It is called in Scotland "brugh," the early Teutonic word for circle: the same term which is applied to circular forts or hills. Thus,

About the moon there is a brugh,
The weather will be cauld and rough.

The moon with a circle brings water in her beak.

Lune encerclée, pluie prochaine.—*Haut Rhin.*

Quando la luna ga'l cercio, vol piover.—*Venice.*

Cercle à la lune,
Matelot monte dans la hune.—*Pas de Calais.*

Rond à l'lune, pleuve in été,
In hiver, pleuve ubin neice (ou neige).—*Nord.*

Ein Hof oder Ring um Mond, deutet auf Regen und Wind, oder auch auf anhaltende Trockniss:

The further the halo appears distant from the moon, the nearer at hand is the coming rain. So we find,

Far burr, near rain.

Quand le rond est près,
La pluie est loin.—*Yonne.*

Sèrc visin, aqua lontan:
Sèrc lontan, aqua doman.—*Milan.*

Halo round Sun and Moon.

The circle of the moon never filled a pond:
The circle of the sun wets a shepherd.

Hof um den Mond, das soll wohl geh'n: aber Hof um die Sonne, da schreit des Schiffers Weib.

Aspects of the Moon.

Of the particular indications of the haze in the atmosphere, the mere hazy or pale colour of the moon often forebodes rain, while she is more brazen or copper-coloured before wind. So the old adage,

Pallida luna pluit; rubicunda flat: alba serenat:
This saying is found in almost every language.

Pale.

Luno pallo bespré ou mati
Aigo del nibou faï sourti.—*Lozère:*
i.e., Lune pâle le soir ou le matin
Fait tomber de l'eau de la nue.

And we find in the Midsummer Night's Dream, act ii. sc. 2,
"Therefore the moon the governess of floods,
Pale in her anger, washes all the air,
That rheumatic diseases do abound."

Red.

At si virgineum suffuderit ore ruborem,
Ventus erit: vento semper rubet aurea Phœbe.—*Georgicon*, lib. I., 430, 431.

Lune rouge, le vent souffle:
Lune rousse, il pleut ou souffle.—*Bouches du Rhône.*

Luno roujo méno toujour
Aouro fouorto péndén lou jour.—*Lozère:*
i.e., Lune rouge annonce toujours
Un grand vent pendant la journée.

Clear.

If the moon show a silver shield,
Be not afraid to reap your field:
But if she rises haloed round,
Soon we'll tread on deluged ground.

Clear moon,
Frost soon.

Lune brillante et blanche en même temps
Pour plusieurs jours nous promet le beau temps.

La lune argentive—temps clair.

Moon causing rain.

"Hecate in Macbeth tells the witches—

'Upon a corner of the moon
There hangs a vaporous drop profound,'

efficacious in the invocation of spirits. And in Newton's Directions for Health, 1574, we are told that the moon is 'ladie of moysture:' and in Hamlet, act i. sc. 1, she is called 'the moist star.' Shakespeare, indeed, in the Midsummer Night's Dream, appears to have imitated a passage to this effect in Lydgate's Storie of Thebes,—

'Of Lucina the moone, moist and pale,
That many showres fro heaven made availe.'"—
Brand.

Influence of the Moon on agricultural operations.

The moon was supposed by our ancestors to exercise great influence over agricultural operations, also over many "of the minor concerns of life, such as the gathering of herbs, the killing of animals for the table, and other matters of a like nature."

In Tusser's Five Hundred Points of Husbandry, are the following lines:

"Sowe peason and beans in the wane of the moone,
Who soweth them sooner, he soweth too soone:

That they, with the planet, may rest and rise,
And flourish with bearing most plentiful wise."

Werenfels, in his Dissertation upon Superstition (transl. 8vo. Lond., 1748), p. 6, speaking of a superstitious man, says:

"He will not commit his seed to the earth when the soil, but when the moon, requires it. He will have his hair cut when the moon is either in Leo, that his locks may stare like the lion's shag, or in Aries, that they may curl like a ram's horn. Whatever he would have to grow, he sets about it when she is on her increase (this is contrary to Tusser); but for what he would have made less, he chooses her wane. When the moon is in Taurus, he never can be persuaded to take physic, lest that animal, which chews its cud, should make him cast it up again. If at any time he has a mind to be admitted into the presence of a prince, he will wait till the moon is in conjunction with the sun; for 'tis then the society of an inferior with a superior is salutary and successful."

Butler, in Hudibras, part II., canto 3, l. 239, says of a conjuror,

"But with the moon was more familiar
Than e'er was almanac well-willer;
Her secrets understood so clear,
That some believed he had been there;
Knew when she was in fittest mood
For cutting corns or letting blood;
When for anointing scabs or itches,

. . . . . .

And in what sign best cider's made;

Whether the wane be, or increase,
Best to set garlic or sow pease:
Who first found out the man i' th' moon,
That to the ancients was unknown."

The French say,

Sème dans le déclin,
Tu auras du grain.—*Pas de Calais.*

Toute graine semée en nouvelle lune est moitié perdue.—*Yonne.*

La meilleure condition météreologique pour les travaux agricoles est l'époque qui se rapproche le plus de la pleine-lune; la plus mauvaise celle qui s'en éloigne le plus.—*Vienne.*

Si vous voulez du bon bois d'œuvre, il faut l'abattre à la lune vielle.—*Puy de Dôme.*

This corresponds with the Italian proverb,

Se te vö avegh del bon legnam
In lüna piena no sta a tajal.—*Milan.*

Quel che te somnet in lüna piena
No 'l te dà gnaca de sena.—*Bergamo.*

And in the year 1870 an Italian Professor can write, with reference to these two last proverbs,

"Questi ultimi proverbi si ritengono dalla maggior parte ridicole credenze o pregiudizi: ma i risultati di lunghissime e continuate osservazioni di illustri scienziati, accennano all' influenza lunare sui fenonemi della vita tellurica"!

See also the Husbandman's Practice, or Prognostication for ever, pp. 109-10-11.

Virgil, *Georg.*, I. 276-86, says,

Ipsa dies alios alio dedit ordine Luna
Felices operum. Quintam fuge ;—

. . . . . .

Septima post decimam felix, et ponere vitem,
Et prensos domitare boves, et licia telæ
Addere. Nona fugæ melior, contraria furtis.

CHANGE OF THE MOON ON THE VARIOUS DAYS OF THE WEEK.

Sunday.

If the moon change on Sunday, there will be a flood before the month is out.

Lune du dimanche
L'eau passe la planche.—*Haute Saône.*

Si la lune renouvelle un dimanche,
L'eau emporte ponts et planches.—*Jura.*

Monday.

Tout lundi vaut bonne lune.

Tuesday.

Prends du temps la règle commune
Au premier mardi de la lune.—*Calvados.*

Wednesday.

Un mercredi si la lune est nouvelle,
En fait de beau n'attendez rien d'elle.—*Haute Loire.*

Lune de mercredi et femme barbue,
De si loin que je te vois, je te salue.

Lüna de mercoldé,
La rüina 'l tò e'l me.—*Bergamo.*

Friday.

Lune qui commence un vendredi est pluvieuse pendant toutes ses phases.—*Hautes Pyrénées.*

Quan la luno tourno lou dibendrès,
Baoupas uno bugado sans cendrès.—*Lot et Garonne.*
i.e., When the new moon begins on a Friday, it is not worth lye made without ashes (meaning that it brings bad weather).

Saturday.

A Saturday's moon,
Come when it will, it comes too soon.

A Saturday's change brings the boat to the door,
But a Sunday's change brings it up on mid floor.

Saturday's change and Sunday's full
Never brought good and never wull.

A Saturday's change and a Sunday's full moon
Once in seven years is once too soon.

Saturday's change and Sunday's prime,
Ance is aneugh in seven years' time.

PROVERBS RELATING TO STARS AND METEORS.

Stars Clouded.

Si l'on voit les étoiles entourées de brouillard,
Un vent très froid ne peut être en retard.—*Haute Loire.*

Brilliant.

Ciel très étoilé
N'est pas de longue durée.—*Moselle.*

Etoiles plus brillantes que de coutume, pluie probable.—*Meurthe.*

El temp no l'è pü quèll,
Quand che grand e visin se vèd i stèll—*Milan:*

i.e., When the stars seem larger and nearer to one another than usual, there will be a change in the weather.

The Maltese say,
The stars twinkle: we cry "Wind."

Halo round Stars.

Sèrc ai stèll,
El temp no l'è pü bèll.—*Milan.*

Shooting-Stars.

Sternschnuppen bedeuten viel Wind.

So Virgil writes, Georg. I. 365-66.

Saepe etiam stellas, vento impendente, videbis,
Praecipites coelo labi.

Electric Lights.

Last night I saw Saint Elmo's stars,
With their glittering lanterns all at play,
On the tops of the masts and the tips of the spars,
And I knew we should have foul weather that day.

Brand (iii. 400) quotes from the Scottish Encyclopaedia, *v.* Lights: "Dr Shaw tells us that in thick hazy weather he has observed those luminous appearances which at sea skip about the masts and yards of ships, and which the sailors call 'corpusanse,' which is a corruption of the Spanish 'cuerpo santo.'"

In the same work, under Meteor, we are told: "Pliny, in his second book of Natural History, calls these appearances stars; and tells us that they settled not only upon the masts and other parts of ships, but also upon men's heads. Two of these lights forebode good weather and a prosperous voyage; and drive away the single one, which wears a threatening aspect. This the sailors call 'Helen;' but the two they call 'Castor and Pollux,' and invoke them as gods."

"These appearances are called by the French and Spaniards inhabiting the coasts of the Mediterranean, St Helme's or St Telme's fires; by the Italians, the fires of St Peter and St Nicholas."

In Cotgrave we read: "Feu d'Hélène, Feu S. Herme, St Helen's or St Herme's fire; a meteor that often appears at sea: looke Furole."

"Furole, a little blaze of fire appearing by night on the tops of soldiers' lances, or at sea on the sayle yards, where it whirles, and leaps in a moment from one place to another. Some mariners call it St Herme's fire; if it come double, 'tis held a signe of good lucke, if single, otherwise."

PROVERBS RELATING TO THE RAINBOW.

The following are a few of the names given to the Rainbow in various European countries:—

By the old Norsemen it was called "Asbrû," or "The Bridge of the Gods." In Lithuania it is styled "Laima's Girdle; the Weather rod, or Heaven's bow." In Catalonia, "S. Martin's bow." In Lorraine, "S. Leonard's belt, or S. Bernard's crown." In Bavaria, "Heaven's ring, or the Sun's ring." In Finland, "Heaven's bow." In Croatia, "The God's seat." In

Servia and Poland, "The stave in the sky," or simply "The stave." In Carniola, "The striped cow." *—(*Das Wetter im Sprichwort.*)

Morning and Evening.

If there be a rainbow in the eve,
It will rain and leave:
But if there be a rainbow in the morrow,
It will neither lend nor borrow.

The rainbow in the marnin
Gives the shepherd warnin
To car' his gûrt cwoat on his back:
The rainbow at night
Is the shepherd's delight,
For then no gurt cwoat will he lack.—*Wiltshire.*

A rainbow at morning
Is the shepherd's warning:
A rainbow at night
Is the shepherd's delight.

Similar sayings are found in various countries. Thus,

a. In Germany,

Regenbogen am Morgen
Macht dem Schäfer Sorgen;
Regenbogen am Abend
Ist dem Schäfer labend.

b. In the Basque provinces,

Holçadarraq ceruan arratçian dembora ouna iracustendu:

i.e., A rainbow in the evening foretells fine weather.

* "In Bohemia the peasantry hold it unlucky to walk under a rainbow; and they say that the rain which descends through the bow blights all it falls upon."—White's Northumberland. p. 348.

c. In Corsica,

Arco di mare, acqua a fontane :
Arco di sera, scalda costiera.

d. In North Italy,

Arco celeste de matina,
El mal tempo se avicina ;
Arco celeste de sera
El bon tempo se spera.

e. In the neighbourhood of Florence,

Arco da matina
Empie la mulina :
Arco da sera
Tempo rasserena.

f. In the Pas de Calais,

L'arc-en-ciel du matin
Donne à boire au voisin :
Et l'arc-en-ciel du soir
Au voisin donne espoir.

In the Vosges,

Arc-en-ciel du soir
Fait beau temps prévoir :
Arc-en-ciel du matinée
Du laboureur finit la journée.

But in some parts of France a contrary opinion prevails. Thus we find in the Department of Ille-et-Vilaine,

Arc-en-ciel du matin,
Bonhomme, pousse ton chemin :
Arc-en-ciel du soir,
Rentre au manoir.

And,

Arc-en-ciel du matin
Bonne femme, mets les vaches en chemin :
Arc-en-ciel du soir
Tu verras pleuvoir.

Sir Humphry Davy, in his 'Salmonia,' writes as follows :—

"A rainbow can only occur when the clouds containing or depositing the rain are opposite to the sun ; and in the evening the rainbow is in the east, and in the morning in the west ; and as our heavy rains in this climate are usually brought by the westerly wind, a rainbow in the west indicates that the bad weather is on the road, by the wind to us ; whereas the rainbow in the east proves that the rain in these clouds is passing from us."

In East and South.

So the French saying,

Arc-en-ciel du levant
Beau temps :
Arc-en-ciel du midi
Pluie.

On the other hand there is a Spanish proverb, that

"A rainbow in the east brings rain with all speed ; but if you see it in the west, you may know that it is closing the floodgates and will bring wind."

Colours.

Quando l'arco celeste tra al rossin,
Poco formento e molto vin :

Se'l tra al verde e al zalin
Assae ogio e poco vin—*Venice:*
i.e., When red preponderates in a rainbow, the harvest will be bad, the vintage good: but when green or yellow, there will be much oil and little wine.

PROVERBS RELATING TO MISTS AND FOGS.

When the mist comes from the hill,
Then good weather it doth spill;
When the mist comes from the sea,
Then good weather it will be.

On Mountains.

When the mist creeps up the hill,
Fisher, out and try your skill:
When the mist begins to nod,
Fisher, then put by your rod.—*Scotland.*

Nebel auf Wäldern und Bergspitzen zeigen Regen an.—*Suabia.*

Wenn der Nebel den Berg'rauf zieht, kommt er in drei Tagen als Regen wieder.

Brouillard dans la vallée,
Bonhomme, va à ta journée;
Brouillard sur le mont,
Bonhomme, reste à la maison.—*Pas de Calais.*

If after sunset a mist hangs over brooks and meadows, the German peasants consider it to prognosticate fine weather, and say,
"The fox is brewing."

Si le brouillard s'élève, signe de pluie ;
S'il tombe, signe de beau temps.—*Loiret.*

Brouillard qui s'élève en automne présage le beau temps :
Brouillard qui remonte en été annonce la pluie.—*Ardennes.*

La nebia bassa,
Bel temp la lassa.—*Milan.*

El caligo purga'l tempo.— *Venice.*

Quando'l sol la nebia el lassa, la nebia lassa'l sol —*Venice :*

i.e., When the sun leaves mist behind, the mist leaves the sun behind—meaning, that when mist rises in the evening after sunset, it disperses the next morning at sunrise.

Dicker Nebel Abends zeigt oft an, dass es Nachts regnen wird.

Tre calighi fa una piova : tre piove fa una brentana —*Venice :*

i.e., Three fogs make a fall of rain ; three falls of rain make a flood.

Bruine obscure
Trois jours dure ;
Si elle poursuit
En dure huit.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

So the Milanese say,
Nebia scüra
Tri dè la düra :
Se le cala töt in böt
La pöl staga piö de òt.

White mist in winter indicates frost:
Black mist indicates coming rain.—*Scotland.*

Haze.

Hazy weather is thought to prognosticate frost in winter, snow in spring, fair weather in summer, and rain in autumn.

PROVERBS RELATING TO DEW.

Morning.

L'rousée du matin
N'empêche point l'pèlerin.—*Nord.*

Fällt gar kein Thau oder verschwindet er zeitig des Morgens, so steht Regen mit Gewitter.

Evening.

The dews of the evening industriously shun,
They're the tears of the sky for the loss of the sun.

PROVERBS RELATING TO THE CLOUDS.

Black.

"A small fast-growing black cloud in violent motion seen in the tropics, is called the Bull's-Eye, and precedes the most terrible hurricanes."

The Persians say,
Black clouds bring rain.

Trübe Wolken sind selten ohne Regen.

Compare Tempest, act ii. sc. 2,

"And another storm brewing; I hear it sing i' the wind, yond' same black cloud, yond' huge one, looks like a foul bumbard that would shed his liquor. . . . Yond' same cloud cannot chuse but fall by pailfuls."

Green and Black.

Nivol verd, nivol scürét,
In tempesta con saett—*Milan:*

i.e., When the clouds are green and black, they forebode storms and lightning.

White.

I nivol bianch, pizzen come can.—*Milan.*

Red.

Red clouds in the east, rain the next day.

Horizon rouge, signe de vent ou de pluie.—*Gers.*

Nuvola roggia
O vent o pioggia.

Nigola rossa, la dumà (the next day)
Se nol piöv el pioerà.—*Bergamo.*

Woolly.

If woolly fleeces spread the heavenly way,
Be sure no rain disturbs the summer's day.

El ciel pecoun promete un bel matin.

But, on the other hand, Virgil (Georg. i. 397) considers it a sign of rain if it should happen that,

Tenuia—lanae per coelum vellera ferri.

And so in the neighbourhood of Pisa, they say,

Cielo a pecorelle,
Acqua a catinelle:

And in the North of Italy,

Quando le nuvole xe fate a lana
Se no piove ancuo piove sta setimana :

And in the Tyrol,

Sind Morgens Himmelschäflein, wird's Nachmittags hageln oder schnei'n :

And in France,

Quan lou ceil perdigo
Se'non plaoù non trigo—*Lot et Garonne :*

i.e., When the sky is dappled, if it does not rain at once, it will not be long in coming. And,

Temps pommelé, fille fardée,
Ne sont pas de longue durée.

In the North.

Nigola de montagna
No bagna la campagna.

In the South-west.

"When scattered patches or streaks of nimbus come driving up from the south-west, they are called by the sailors 'Prophet Clouds,' and indicate wind."—*Inwards.*

In the West.

A bank of clouds in the west indicates rain.—*Surrey.*

"When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower and so it is."—*S. Luke*, xii. 54.

Nigola de ponent
No la s'alza mai per gnent :

i.e., A cloud rising from the west, does not rise to no purpose.

Castellated.

When clouds appear like rocks and towers,
The earth's refreshed with frequent showers.

Compare,

"Sometimes we see a cloud that's dragonish,
A vapour sometimes like a bear or lion,
A towered citadel, a pendant rock,
A forked mountain, a blue promontory
With trees upon't that nod unto the world
And mock our eyes with air.
That which is now a horse, even with a thought,
The rack dislimns and makes it indistinct
As water is in water."—*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra*, act iv. sc. 12.

And so Aristophanes, Nub., 345:

Ἦδη ποτ' ἀναβλέψας εἶδες νεφέλην Κενταύρῳ ὁμοίαν;
Ἢ παρδάλῃ, ἢ λύκῳ, ἢ ταύρῳ;

See also Pliny's Natural History: Translated by Philemon Holland, Book II. chap. 3: also Byron's Voyage, p. 10.

Names of Clouds.

The cloud called goat's hair, or the grey mare's tail, forebodes wind.

Hen-scarts and filly-tails
Make lofty ships wear low sails.

Certain light kinds of clouds, says Chambers, are thus denominated, from their supposed resemblances to the scratches of hens on the ground and the tails of young mares.

Sailors have a proverb referring to the same cloud,

If clouds look as if scratched by a hen,
Get ready to reef your topsails then.

In Hungary these clouds are called "Sea-grass."

Fish-shaped.

The hake-shaped cloud, if pointing east and west, indicates rain: if north and south, more fine weather.—*Bedfordshire.*

A long stripe of cloud, sometimes called a salmon, sometimes a Noah's ark, when it stretches east and west, is a sign of a storm; but when north and south, of fine weather.

So in the Eifel and also on the lower Rhine they say of a cloud similar to that just mentioned, and which they call a sea-ship, or cloud-ship, or Mary's ship,

"If the Meer-schiff turns its head to the south, rain will soon follow."

Small well-defined roundish masses of cloud, increasing from below, are called "A mackerel sky."

Mackerel sky—
Neither long wet nor long dry.

These clouds are called in Buckinghamshire "packet boys," and are said to be packets of rain soon to be opened.

Conical heaps increasing upwards from a horizontal base are called "wool-bags."—*Inwards.*

A cloud called the Helm Cloud, hovering about the hill-tops for a day or two, is said to presage wind and rain.—*Yorkshire.*

Clouds on Hill-Tops.

When the clouds are upon the hills
They'll come down by the mills.

Corresponding to the French saying,

Fun de pèt
Boto-te ol lèt.—*Lot.*
i.e., Fumèe de pic (clouds on the hill-tops)
Mets toi au lit.

Hills and clouds are closely connected in weather-lore ; and almost every district has rhymes or sayings on this subject, *e.g.*:

Bredon Hill.

When Bredon Hill puts on his hat,
Ye men of the vale beware of that.—*Worcestershire.*

Cairns Muir.

When Cairns Muir wears a hat,
The Macher's Rills may laugh at that.

Cairnsmuir is N.N.E. of Macher's Rills, Wigtownshire.

Another version is,

When Cairnsmuir puts on his hat,
Palmuir and Skyreburn laugh at that ;

Palmuir and Skyreburn being mountain streams which rise rapidly after rain.

Cheviot.

When Cheviot ye see put on his cap,
Of rain ye'll have a wee bit drap.

Cornsancone.

If Cornsancone put on his cap, and the Knipe be clear, it will rain within twenty-four hours.

This is a sign which it is said never fails. Cornsancone Hill is to the east, and the Knipe to the south-west of the New Cumnock districts where the proverb is current.

Craighill.

There is a high wooded hill above Lochnaw Castle,
Take care when Lady Craighill puts on her mantle :

The Lady looks high and knows what is coming,
Delay not one moment to get under covering.

The hill lies to the north-west of the district where this saying is quoted.

Criffel.

When Criffel wears a hap,
Skiddaw wots full well o' that.

Any stout exterior garment for protection against cold is called in Scotland a "hap."—CHAMBERS.

The rolling of clouds landward and their gathering about the summit of Criffel, is regarded as a sign of foul weather in Dumfries and Kirkpatrick-Fleming, and intervening parishes.

Falkland Hill.

When Falkland Hill puts on his cap,
The Howe o' Fife will get a drap;
And when the Bishop draws his cowl,
Look out for wind and weather foul.

Falkland Hill and Bishop Hill are two prominent conical eminences in the Lomond range.

Halldown.

When Halldown has a hat,
Let Kenton beware of a skat.—*Devonshire.*

A "skat" is a shower of rain.

Largo Law.

When Largo Law puts on his hat,
Let Kellie Law beware of that;
When Kellie Law gets on his cap,
Largo Law may laugh at that.

Largo Law is to the south-west of Kellie Law.

Riving Pike.

If Riving Pike do wear a hood,
Be sure the day will ne'er be good. — *Lancashire.*

Roseberry Topping.

If Roseberry Topping wears a cap,
Let Cleveland then beware of a rap. — *North Riding.*

Ruberslaw.

When Ruberslaw puts on his cowl,
The Dunion on his hood,
Then a' the wives of Teviotside
Ken there will be a flood.—*Roxburghshire.*

In Forfarshire, Craigowl and Collie Law, two eminences in the Sidlaw range, are substituted for Ruberslaw and the Dunion, and the "Lundy lads" for the wives o' Teviotside.—CHAMBERS.

Skiddaw.

When Skiddaw hath a cap,
Criffell wots well of that.

Traprain.

When Traprain puts on his hat,
The Lothian lads may look to that.—*Haddingtonshire.*

We meet with proverbs of a similar character in other countries. Thus Schiller says in 'Wilhelm Tell':—

Mythenstein.

Der Mythenstein zieht seine Haube an.

Mount Pilate.

Quand Pilate a mis son chapeau
Le temps sera serein et beau.

Monte Summano.

Quando'l Suman ga'l capelo,
Se ancò piove doman fa belo.— *Venetia.*

Monte Venda.

Co'l monte Venda fa pan,
Se no piove ancò, piove doman:

i.e., When Mount Venda is making bread (when the clouds on its summit resemble smoke issuing from a chimney), if it is not raining now, it will to-morrow.

Monte Venda is the highest of the Euganean hills.

Hills and Sea-Coast.

Wenn's Gebirge sich erhellt,
Iss und trink und geh'auf's Feld:

i.e., It will not rain.

Sieht die Küste heiter aus,
Iss und trink und geh' in's Haus :

i.e., It will rain.

Mer claire et montagne obscure
Annoncent la pluie sûre.—*Hérault.*

PROVERBS RELATING TO FROST.

Quick thaw, long frost.

He that would have a bad day maun gang out in a fog after a frost.

White Frost.

(Foreboding rain.)

Blanches gelées est de pluie messagère.—*Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

Al ara sin cu lave—*Nord:*

i.e., Elle (la gelée blanche) aura le cul lavé.

Quand la gelade est blanque, la plouge li cante au cul.

i.e., When there is a hoar-frost, the rain is singing at its rear.

(Foreboding snow.)

Bearded frost, forerunner of snow.

(Causing thaw.)

Starker Reif bricht den Frost.—*Suabia.*

Hail and Frost.

Hail
Brings frost in the tail.

Hailstorm at day denotes frost at night.

La gelée ne fault au grésil
Non plus que le père au fils.— *Calendrier des bons Laboureurs.*

PROVERBS RELATING TO SNOW.

(Beneficial to the ground.)

Soto la neve sta la farina.—*Venetia.*

In Tuscany they say,

Sott'acqua fame, e sotto neve pane:

i.e., Under water dearth, and under snow bread.

La neve ingrassa la campagna.

Die weisse Gans (*i.e.*, snow) brütet gut.

Eine gute Decke von Schnee,
Bringt das Winterkorn in die Höh.

So hoch der Schnee, so hoch das Gras.

Per ona setimana, la nev la fa de mama :
Per de pu l'e ona madregna,
E la deventa dòp come ona tegna—*Milan :*
i.e., For seven days snow is a mother, then it becomes a stepmother, and then a scab (a nuisance).

So the French say,

Neige de huit jours est la mère de la terre,
Neige de plus de huit jours en est la marâtre.

And the Basques,

Sorzi egunes ama ditu lurrac :
i.e., For eight days snow acts as a mother to the earth.

Neige au blé est tel bénéfice
Qu'au vieillard sa bonne pelisse.—*Vosges.*

Corresponding with the Russian proverb,

Corn is as comfortable under the snow as an old man in his fur coat.

Snow and Sun.

Se a la nev va'l sul adoss
Nev e nev, nev a brandoss :
i.e., If the sun falls on the snow, there will be snow, and snow, and snow yet again.

Snow and Hail.

Plus il neige,
Moins il grêle.—*Haut Marne.*

Snow and Ice.

La neve non lascia mai ghiaccio dietro.

Fine Weather following Snow.

Döp la nevada
L'è bèla la giornada.

Size of Flakes.

Schneit es fein und klein, kan man grosse, anhaltende Kälte, schneit es mit grossen und breiten Flocken, mässige Kälte erwarten.

Consolation in Snowy Weather.

Bon vi, bon pa, la pas in ca,
Se ol fiocà, lassa fiocà:

i.e., With good wine, good bread, and peace at home, if snow does come, let it come.

PROVERBS RELATING TO RAIN.

Morning.

Rain before seven,
Fine before eleven.

So the Czechs and Poles say,

Morning rain and women's tears are soon over.

The Suabian peasants,

Morgenregen und Waiberwai,
Sind um Zehne nimmermai.

The French,

Pluie matinale
N'est pas journale.

And,

Plèjo que toumbo lou mati,
Diou pas émpacha dé parti—*Lozère:*

i.e., Rain in the morning will not hinder us from going out.

The Germans,
Frühregen und frühe Betelleut'
Bleiben nicht bis man Zwölfe läut't.
And,
Frühregen und Frühgäste bleiben selten über Nacht.

But in the north of Italy they fear early rain;
Quand el piöv su la rosada
Se ghe n'à per na zurnada—*Bergamo:*
i.e., If the rain falls on the dew, it will continue to fall throughout the day.

Midnight.

Midnight rains
Make drowned fens.—*Lincolnshire.*

Rain and Wind.

Kleiner Regen
Macht grossen Wind legen.

Quand el piöv e'l tria vent,
Sara l'üs e tègnet dent:
i.e., When it rains and blows, shut up your house and stay within.

Uncertain.

It rains by planets.

The peasant prays for rain, the traveller longs for sunshine, but God gives each what is best.—*Tartar Proverb.*

Quand dio völ, in töc i temp el piöv.

Small Rain.

Many drops make a shower.

Staubregen pflegt ein sicherer Vorbote guten trockenen Wetters zu sein.

Appearance of Drops.

Qu'ind i pleut à zieux d'vaques,
Chest pou tros jours—*Nord:*
i.e., When the rain in falling makes cow's eyes, it will last for three days.

Pluie qui fume en tombant
Doit durer longtemps.—*Calvados.*

Rain from a particular quarter.

Quand la pluie vient d'amont
La terre trempe jusqu'au fond—*Seine et Oise:*
i.e., When the rain comes from up the river, the earth is thoroughly soaked.

Rain during Sunshine.

If it rain when the sun shines, it will surely rain the next day about the same hour.—*Suffolk.*

A sunshiny shower
Never lasts half an hour.—*Bedfordshire.*

Sunshiny rain
Will soon go again.—*Devonshire.*

The Poles say,
If it rain while the sun is shining, the witches are making butter.

The Germans,
If it rain while the sun is shining, the devil is beating his grandmother;
He is laughing, and she is crying.

On the Rhine we find a proverb,

When it rains during sunshine, they are holding their kermess (or feast) in hell.

Squalls.

The sudden storm lasts not three hours.

So in Richard II., act ii. sc. i.,

"Small showers last long, but sudden storms are short."

The faster the rain, the quicker the hold up.—*Norfolk.*

After a storm comes a calm.

Nacht Regen Kommt Sonnenschein.

"Post nubila Phœbus."

PROVERBS RELATING TO THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

Silence before Thunder.

"We often see, against some storm,
A silence in the heavens, the rack stand still,
The bold wind speechless, and the orb below
As hush as death: anon the dreadful thunder
Doth rend the region."—*Hamlet*, act ii. sc. 2.

Repeated Thunder.

Quand il a tonné et encore tonne
La pluie approche et montre la corne.

Thunder and Rain.

Tant tonne qu'il pleut.

Thunder at times of the day.

Thunder in y^e^ morning signifies wynde, about noone rayne, in y^e^ evening great tempest.—*Digges.*

Les tonnerres du soir amènent l'orage,
Ceux du matin le vent,
Ceux du midi la pluie.—*Calvados.*

So they say in North Italy,
Trù a la matina, aria in cassina :
Tru a mesdé, l'aqua l'e ai pé :
Trù a la bassùra, temporal che fa pura :
Which has exactly the same meaning.

First Thunder of the year.

When the Esthonians hear thunder for the first time in the year, they strike their heads thrice with a stone, as a charm against its evil effects.

Vrienden, let weel op uw vee,
Den eersten donder bært veel wee—*Belgium :*
i.e., Friends, take care of your cattle, the first thunder will harm them much.

Thunder from South.

Se tra'l primo ton in l'ostro
Slarga l'ara e strenzi l'orto.

South-west.

Quando'l ton tra da garbin,
Ghe xe pan e ghe xe vin—*Venetia :*
i.e., If you hear the first thunder in the south, make your barn-floor larger and your garden smaller. When you hear it in the south-west, you may reckon on much bread and wine.

Another version runs as follows,

South.

Quando'l primo ton vien da Ferrara (south),
Strenzi l'orto e slarga l'ara:

North.

Quando'l ton vien da Bassan (north)
To'su'l cesto e va per pan:

South-east.

Quando'l ton vien da siroco (south-east)
To'l baston e va a toco.

Thunder on Days of the Week.

Digges, in his 'Prognostication everlasting of ryghte good effecte,' fol. 6, *b*, says:

"Somme wryte (their ground I see not) that Sondaye's thundre shoulde brynge the death of learned men, judges, and others: Mondaye's thundre, the death of women: Tuesdaye's thundre, plentie of graine: Wednesdaye's thundre, the deathe of harlottes, and other blodshede: Thursdaye's thundre, plentie of shepe and corne: Fridaie's thundre, the slaughter of a great man, and other horrible murders: Saturdaye's thundre, a generall pestilent plague and great deathe."

Thunder and Rain.

After much thunder much rain:
And the Germans say,
Auf Donner folgt gern Regen.

Lightning.

Sheet-lightning, without thunder, during the night, having a whitish colour, announces unsettled weather. In the

west of Scotland morning lightning is regarded as an omen of bad weather.

In the West.

Co lampa in ponente,
No lampa per gnente:

In the North.

Co lampa in tramontana,
Xe segno de caldana—*Venetia:*

i.e., When it lightens in the west, it does not lighten for nothing: when it lightens in the north, it is a sign of heat.

Willsford, in his 'Nature's Secrets,' p. 113, says:

In the North.

"Lightning from the north presages winds;

In the North-west.

"When it lightens only from the north-west, look for rain the next day:

In the South and West.

"If from the south or the west it lightens, expect both wind and rain from these parts:

Coloured.

"When the flashes of lightning appear very pale, it argues the air to be full of waterish meteors; and if red and fiery, inclining to winds and tempests."

"At Boreæ de parte trucis quum fulminat, et quum
Eurique Zephyrique tonat domus: omnia plenis
Rura natant fossis, atque omnis navita ponto
Humida vela legit."—*Virg., Georg. I.*, 370-73.

PROVERBS RELATING TO WIND.

Every wind has its weather.

Nae weather is ill
An the wind bide still.

De l'arrivée du vent
Souvenez vous en.

Day and Night.

The winds of the daytime wrestle and fight
Longer and stronger than those of the night.

Vent du jour redouble à la nuit,
Vent du soir se calme au jour.—*Côtes du Nord.*

Morning and Evening.

Aria de mati, l'empieness el müli,
Aria de sera bel temp se spera:
i.e., Wind in the morning fills the mills; wind in the evening foretells fine weather.

Morning.

Aria de mati,
Ol tep völ fa'l rabi:
i.e., Wind in the morning brings stormy weather.

Mid-day.

Se i venti spirarà da mezzogiorno
Suto i indicarà sicuro e longo—*Venetia:*
i.e., If the wind is blowing at noon, it is a sure sign of continued dry weather.

Sunrise and Sunset.

Der Wind, der sich mit der Sonne erhebt und legt, bringt selten Regen.—*Westphalia.*

Wind and Rain.

Jaincoaq nahidouen orduan, aisçe gusçiez eguitendu uria—*Basque:*

i.e., When God wills, it rains with all winds.

No gh'e vento senza aqua:

i.e., Never is wind without rain.

Mai vent senz' aqua, ne aqua senza vent—*Bergamo:*

i.e., Never is there wind without rain, or rain without wind.

Grosser wind ist selten ohne Regen.

When rain comes before wind,
Halyards, sheets, and braces mind:
But,
When wind comes before rain,
Soon you may make sail again.

When the rain comes before the winds,
You may reef when it begins;
But when the wind comes before the rain,
You may hoist your topsails up again.

If the rain comes before the wind,
Lower your topsails and take them in;
If the wind comes before the rain,
Lower your topsails and hoist them again.

High Wind.

Jamais grand vent
N'a couru pour rent (rien).—*Jura.*

Warm Wind.

Vent chaud a la queue blanche (is followed by snow) —*Vaucluse.*

Winds preceding Fine Weather.

Dop el vent,
Tre di de bel temp.—*Milan.*

Cold Wind.

Co xe vento,
Xe fredo d'ogni tempo—*Venetia:*
i.e., When there is wind, it is always cold.

Direction of the Wind.

In Selkirkshire and Peeblesshire they say,
When the wind's in the north,
Hail comes forth;
When the wind's in the wast,
Look for a wat blast;
When the wind's in the soud,
The weather will be fresh and gude;
When the wind's in the east,
Cauld and snaw comes neist.

East and wast,
The sign of a blast;
North and south,
The sign of drouth.

North winds send hail, south winds bring rain,
East winds we bewail, west winds blow amain:
North-east is too cold, south-east not too warm,
North-west is too bold, south-west doth no harm.
—*Tusser.*

The west wind always brings wet weather:
The east wind cold and wet together:
The south wind surely brings us rain:
The north wind blows it back again:

If the sun in red should set,
The next day surely will be wet:
If the sun should set in grey,
The next will be a rainy day.

North Wind.

A northern air
Brings weather fair.

The north wind drives away rain.—*Palestine.*

Vent d'Albion
Vent de grêlon.—*Rhône.*

Sans le vent du nord
On labourerait avec des chevilles d'or.—*Tarn.*

When the wind is in the north,
The skilful fisher goes not forth.

North-east Wind.

Quand il pleut à la bise
Il pleut à sa guise.—*Haute Marne.*

S'il pleut par la bise
Il en tombe jusqu'à la chemise.—*Ain.*

If it rains with a north-east wind (Cierzo), it rains with a vengeance.—*Spain.*

La tramontano
Ni bono ni sano.—*Gard.*

A'bise directe point d'abri,
A'pauvre homme point d'ami.—*Vaucluse.*

Si la bise ne s'arrête pas le troisième jour, elle court neuf jours.—*Ain.*

So the Venetians say,
Quando bora se move
O uno o tre o cinque o sete o nove.

La bise
Est la nourricière de la Bresse.—*Ain.*

Année de bise—année de prise.—*Jura.*

North-east and South.

Vein ke djalle, bise ke dedjalle et fenna ke pou parle,
San trè tsouze kon ne vai guero—*Walloon:*
i.e., A south wind that freezes, a north-east wind that thaws, and a woman who says little, are three things not often met with.

Quand lou Contal tiro,
L'aouto sello et brido,
Et lou plouxal
Monto o xobal—*Lot:*
i.e., Quand le vent du Cantal (north-east) souffle,
Le vent d'autan (south) selle et bride (gets ready to blow)
Et le vent pluvieux
Monte à cheval.

Les blés grainent plus par le vent du nord est que par le vent du sud.—*Yonne.*

North-west.

Do business with men when the wind is in the north-west.—*Yorkshire.*
This, bringing the finest weather, is said to improve men's tempers.

An honest man and a north-west wind generally go to sleep together.

The north-west wind generally abates about sunset.

Vent d'Ardennes (north-west)
N'a jamais fait de bien en Lorraine.—*Vosges.*

North and South.

On the north coast of Sicily, where the mountains are to the south and the sea to the north, they say:

Quannu lu ventu veni di susu (*i.e.*, from above, from the hills)
Vatti a' infilari 'ntra lu pirtusu:
Quannu lu ventu veni di mari (*i.e.*, from the north)
Pigghia la truscia e vatinni a lavari.

Marin qui geale,
Aourou qui desgeale,
Fumou qui parlou latin
Fan maridou fin.
i.e., Vent du midi qui gèle,
Vent du nord qui dégèle,
Femme qui parle latin,
Font mauvaise fin.—*Vaucluse.*

Vent du nord
Remplit le trésor;
Vent du Midi
Le dégarnit.—*Rhône.*

Vent du nord tiede,
Vent du midi froid,
Mauvais présage.—*Vaucluse.*

South.

(Hot.)

"When ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass."—*S. Luke*, xii. 55.

L'autal, qu'on dit le droit vent, dégelle comme eau brouillant.

The south wind is the father of the poor.—*Ragusa.*

The south wind warms the aged.—*Russia.*

(Foggy.)

"Like foggy south, puffing with wind and rain."—*As you like it*, act iii. sc. 5.

(Wet.)

When the wind is in the south,
It is in the rain's mouth.

A southerly wind with showers of rain,
Will bring the wind from west again.

(Wet and Warm.)

When the wind is in the south,
It blows the bait into the fish's mouth.

When the wind comes from the Danube, the Danube (*i.e.*, floods of rain) comes behind it.—*Bohemia.*

(Boisterous.)

"The southern wind
Doth play a trumpet to his (*i.e.*, to the sun's) purposes,
And by his hollow whistling in the leaves,
Foretells a tempest and a blustering day."—*Henry IV.*, Part I., act v. sc. i.

(Cold.)

Sudwind kalt
Wird selten drei Tage alt.—*Westphalia.*

(In Spring and Autumn.)

L'autan du printemps
Dérange le temps :
Celui de l'automne
Un beau temps donne.—*Ariège.*

Le vent marin, comme le gueux, porte toujours sa gourde.—*Vaucluse.*

South-east.

If a south-east wind bring rain, the latter is expected to last for some time.—*Scotland.*

South-west.

La venessa o la spurca o la snèta—*Bergamo :*
i.e., The south-west wind either clouds the sky or clears it.

Garbin garbin bardassa
Quelo che l' trova el lassa—*Venetia :*
i.e., That rascal Garbin (the south-west wind), as he finds us he leaves us.

That terrible Garbin stirs up the sea to its lowest depths.—*Dalmatia.*

On Lake Onega they say,
A south-west wind (Schelojnik) blowing on the Onega is as bad as a highwayman.

"A south-west blow on ye
And blister ye all over."—*Tempest*, act i. sc. 2.

"The southern wind," says Battman "upon Bartholme, his booke 'De Proprietatibus rerum,'" with which Shakespeare was well acquainted, "is

hot and moyst.—Southern winds corrupt and destroy: they heat and make men fall into sicknesse."—Lib. xi. c. 3.

South-west and South-east.

Se ti vol veder el tempo fin,
A la sera siroco e la matina garbin—*Venetia:*

i.e., If you wish to see fine weather, there must be in the evening a south-east wind blowing, and in the morning a south-west.

South and East.

Le solaire (east wind)
Pluie en l'air:
Le grand vent (south wind)
La répand.—*Haute Saône.*

East.*

Le vent du levant
Annonce le beau temps.—*Marne.*

(Cold.)

Giazz portà de levant,
El düra tant ma tant—*Milan:*

i.e., If an east wind brings frost, the frost will last a long time.

When the wind is in the east,
It's neither good for man nor beast.

(Wet.)

An easterly wind's rain
Makes fools fain.—*North of Ireland.*

Easterly winds and rain
Bring cockles here from Spain.

* In Wales the east wind is called "The wind of the dead men's feet," because the dead are buried with their feet towards the east, to meet their Lord at His second coming.

When the rain is from the east,
It is for four-and-twenty hours at least.

Schwacher Ostwind begunstigt heitern Himmel, wenn's aber bei Ostwind regnet, hält der Regen gerne an.

(Clear.)

Everything looks large in the east wind.—*Scotland.*

There are many local sayings in Scotland referring to the unusually clear appearance of certain mountains during an east wind. It is said to indicate approaching rain.

East and West.

When the wind is in the east,
The fisher likes it least:
When the wind is in the west,
The fisher likes it best.

In Forfarshire, which lies on the east coast of Scotland, with a long stretch of country intervening between its borders and the opposite sea, they say,

When the carry (*i. e.*, the current of the clouds) gaes west,
Guid weather is past:
When the carry gaes east,
Guid weather comes neist.

Wind vom Niedergang
Ist Regens Aufgang:
Wind vom Aufgang
Schönen Wetters Aufgang.

West.

When the wind is in the west,
Then the weather's always best.

The west wind is a gentleman, and goes to bed (*i.e.*, drops in the evening).

(Wet.)

Wind west
Rains nest.—*Devonshire.*

A western wind carries water in his hand.

Veering.

When the wind veers against the sun,
Trust it not, for back 'twill run.

A west wind north about
Never long holds out—*Northumberland:*
That is, a wind which goes round from east to west, "withershins," or contrary to the course of the sun, rarely continues.

If the wind follows the sun's course, expect fine weather.

So the Germans say,
Wenn der Wind der Sonne folgt, so bleibt es einige Tage gutes Wetter.

PROGNOSTICS FROM ANIMALS.

Asses.

Wenn der Esel beim Austreiben aus dem Stalle die Nase in der Höhe streckt, und tüchtig die Ohren schüttelt, so Sind Regen und Gewitter zu erwarten.

If asses hang their ears downward and forward, and rub against walls, rain is approaching.

If asses bray more frequently than usual, it foreshows rain.

Hark! I hear the asses bray,
We shall have some rain to-day.—*Rutland.*

It is time to stack your hay and corn,
When the old donkey blows his horn.

Wenn oft die Esel schreien, kommt schlechtes Wetter.—*Tyrol.*

Quand che l'asen l'ascolta
El temp se volta:
Quand l'asen el stranüda
El temp se müda—*Bergamo:*

i.e., When asses prick up their ears, it is a sign that there will be a change in the weather: so also is it when they sneeze.

Bats.

Bats, or flying mice, coming out of their holes quickly after sunset, and sporting themselves in the open air, premonstrates fair and calm weather.—*Wilsford.*

It will rain if bats cry much or fly into the house.

Bulls.

If the bull lead the van in going to pasture, rain must be expected; but if he is careless and allow the cows to precede him, the weather will be uncertain.

Cats.

When cats sneeze it is a sign of rain.

Cats are observed to scratch the wall or a post before wind, and to wash their faces before a thaw: they sit with their backs to the fire before snow.

Quand le chat se frotte l'oreille
C'est le temps vif qui se reveille.—*Hérault.*

Quand el gat se frega i orecc
Spèta l'aqua che vegn a secc—*Milan:*
i.e., When the cat scratches her ear it will rain very soon.

When cats wipe their jaws with their feet it is a sign of rain.

Quand lou cat passe la patte sur la teste,
Benléon (bientot) fara tempeste.—*Basses Alpes.*

In Southey's Travels in Spain, we read,

"The old woman promised him a fine day to-morrow, because the cat's skin looked bright."

"Sailors, I am informed on the authority of a naval officer, have a great dislike to see the cat, on board ship, unusually playful and frolicsome: such an event, they consider, prognosticates a storm: and they have a saying on these occasions that 'the cat has a gale of wind in her tail.'"—*Brand*, iii. 188.

Cows.

Kommen die Kuh' Abends lang nicht nach Haus, kommt am folgenden Tag schlechtes Wetter.—
—*Tyrol.*

If cattle turn up their nostrils and sniff the air, or if they lick their fore feet, or lie on their right side, it will rain.

So the Venetians say,

Co la vaca tien su'l muso,
Bruto tempo salta suso.

Quand les bêtes à cornes rentrent à l'étable la queue en trompette, c'est signe d'orage: quand elles agitent leurs pieds de derrière, c'est signe de neige.—*Ariège.*

If cattle or sheep crowd together, rain will follow.

Dogs.

When dogs eat grass it will be rainy.

If dogs roll on the ground, and scratch, or become drowsy and stupid, it is a sign of rain.

In 'Roberti Keuchenii Crepundia,' p. 211, the following lines occur:

" Praescia ventorum, se volvit odora canum vis:
Numine diffiatur pulveris instar homo."

Chien qui se roule, annonce du vent:
S'il mange de l'herbe, il pleuvra.—*Morbihan.*

Wenn die Hunde den Mond anbellen, folgt strenge Kälte.

Goats.

Goats leave the high grounds and seek shelter before a storm.—*Scotland.*

If goats and sheep quit their pastures with reluctance, it will rain the next day.

Hares.

Hares take to the open country before a snow-storm. —*Scotland.*

Wenn der Hase im Herbst einen ungewöhnlich dicken Pelz hat, dann giebt es einen harten Winter.

Hedgehog.

In Bodenham's Belvedere, or Garden of the Muses, 8vo, Lond. 1600, p. 153, we read,

"As hedgehogs doe foresee ensuing stormes,
So wise men are for fortune still prepared."

And in Poor Robin's Almanack for 1733, occur the following lines:

"Observe which way the hedgehog builds her nest,
To front the north or south, or east or west:
For if 'tis true that common people say,
The wind will blow the quite contrary way;
If by some secret art the hedgehogs know,
So long before, which way the winds will blow,
She has an art to which many a person lacks,
That thinks himself fit to make almanacks."

Horses.

If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.

Mice.

If mice run about more than usual, wet weather may be expected.

Wenn die Mäuse im Herbste hoch aufwerfen, kommt ein schwerer Winter.

Moles.

Moles plying their works, in undermining the earth, foreshows rain: but if they do foresake their trenches and creep above ground, in summer time it is a sign of hot weather; but when on a suddain they doe forsake the valleys and low grounds, it foreshows a flood neer at hand; but their coming into meddows presages fair weather, and for certain no floods.—*Wilsford.*

Wenn der Maulwurf die Erde aufwirt, wird schlechtes Wetter.

Pigs.

Hogs crying and running unquietly up and down with hay or litter in their mouths, foreshadows a storm to be neer at hand.—*Wilsford.*

Rats.

If rats are more restless than usual, rain is at hand.

Sheep.

If sheep gambol and fight, or retire to shelter, it presages a change in the weather.

Si les moutons dansent, signe de vent:
S'ils restent couchés, signe de pluie.—*Haut Rhin.*

Old sheep are said to eat greedily before a storm, and sparingly before a thaw; when they leave the high grounds and bleat much in the evening and during the night, severe weather is expected. In winter, when they feed down the hill, a snow-storm is looked for; when they feed up the burn, wet weather is near.—*Scotland.*

Weasels.

If these animals are seen running about much in the forenoon, it foretells rain in the after part of the day.—*Scotland.*

Wolves.

Heulen die Wölfe und bellen die Fuchse, so kommt noch grossere Kälte.—*Saubia.*

Cats, Dogs, and Hens.

D'hanen, katten en de honden
Zoo mein dikwils heeft gewonden,
Zeggen't weer van dag tot dag,
Beter als den Almanack.—*Flemish.*

PROGNOSTICS FROM BIRDS.

πρόερεῖ τις ἀεὶ των ὀρνιθων μαντευομένῳ πέρι τοῦ πλοῦ,
νυνὶ μὴ πλεῖ, χειμὼν ἔσται· νυνὶ πλεῖ, κέρδος ἐπέσται.

Aristophanes: Aves, l. 597.

Bittern.

Wenn die Rohrdommel zeitig gehört wird, hofft man auf eine gute Ernte.

Blackbirds.

When the voices of blackbirds are unusually shrill, or when blackbirds sing much in the morning, rain will follow.

Cranes.

If cranes appear in autumn early, a severe winter is expected.

" Cranes, soaring aloft and quietly in the air, fore-

shows fair weather: but if they make much noise, as consulting which way to go, it foreshows a storm that's neer at hand."—*Wilsford*, p. 133, who seems to have taken this from 'Dialogue of Dives and Pauper,' fol. 1493, first precepte, 46th chapter.

Wenn die Kraniche vorüberziehen, kommt Wind oder Regen.

So the Italians say,

Co le grue passa o vento o aqua.

Cuckoo.

Hesiod mentions the singing of a bird which he calls κύκκυξ, as foreboding three days' rain.

Si lou cougou cante à l'ubac, pluie de man ouras:
Si cante à l'adrech, beou temps aoures — *Basses Alpes:*

i.e., Si le coucou chante au nord, pluie au lendemain:
S'il chante au midi, beau temps.

Wenn der Kukuk zu den Häusern fliegt, wird schlechtes Wetter.

Dotterel.

When dotterel do first appear,
It showes that frost is very near:
But when that dotterel do go,
Then you may look for heavy snow.—*Wiltshire.*

Ducks.

When ducks are driving through the burn,
That night the weather takes a turn.—*Scotland.*

If ducks fly backwards and forwards, and continually plunge in water and wash themselves incessantly, wet weather will ensue.

So the French and Italian proverbs,

Quand les canards battent de l'aile dans le ruisseau,
Bientôt le laboureur aura de l'eau.—*Jura.*

Se salten i anedòt e vosen aqua,
Aqua, aqua, aqua, la ven sübet l'aqua.—*Milan.*

Finches.

Wenn die Finken sich ganz früth vor Sonnenaufgang hören lassen, verkünden sich nahen Regen.

The plaintive note of the "shilfa" or "sheely" (chaffinch) is interpreted as a sign of rain. When, therefore, the boys hear it, they first imitate it, and then rhymingly refer to the expected consequences:

Weet-weet!
Dreep-dreep!

Fowls (eating grass).

Wenn die Hennen Gras fressen, kommt Regen.—*—Tyrol.*

(Rolling.)

If fowls roll in the sand,
Rain is at hand.

(Grubbing.)

If fowls grub in the dust, it indicates coming rain.

So the Milanese say,

Se rüspa pü del solit la gaina
No tarda l'aqua pü de domatina.

(Drooping feathers.)
If fowls' wings droop, rain is at hand.

So the German proverb,
Wenn die Hühner die Schwänze hängen lassen, giebt es viel Regen.

(Cock-crowing at unusual hours.)
If cocks crow late and early, clapping their wings unusually, rain is expected.

So the German and Italian proverbs,
Wenn die Hähne in ungewöhnlichen Stunden krähen, und die Hühner fruher Kakeln, wird's Regen geben für den Tag.

Quando'l galo canta in cortivo (fowl-yard),
El tempo, se l'èbon, se fa cativo:
Quando'l galo canta a mason (hen-roost)
Se'l tempo l'è cativo, el se fa bon.—*Venetia.*

Quando il gallo canto al pollaio (poultry-yard),
Aspetta l'aqua sotto il grondaio.—*Tuscany.*

Se el gel canta de stresura (at unusual hours)
Se l'èserè el se snigola (grows cloudy).—*Bergamo.*

Quannu canta lu gaddu fora ura,
A cangiari lu tempu 'un addimura.—*Sicily.*

(Cock-crowing in the evening.)
If the cock goes crowing to bed,
He'll certainly rise with a watery head.

The French say,
Si le coq chante au soir
La pluie lui court au derrière.—*Gironde.*

The Tyrolese,

Wenn der Hahn noch Abends kräht, es gibt Regen.

(Cock drinking in summer.)

Quand en esté le haut coq boit
La pluie soudain vient et paroist.

Quand el gal el bev d'estâ
Spètta on pò che'l pioverà.—*Milan.*

(Pluming themselves.)

Quand i gai se völ becàs,
El temp l'é sul cambiass.—*Bergamo.*

(Straying from home.)

Wenn die Hennen weit vom Stalle sich entfernen, naht schlechtes Wetter.

(Crowding into house.)

If a hen and chickens crowd into a house, it is a sign of rain.

Si, quand il pleut, les poules vont à l'abri,
Dites que la pluie s'en va finie :
Si elles restent dehors et se laissent mouiller,
Ne pensez pas que la pluie va cesser.—*Côte d'Or.*

(Moulting.)

If the cock moult before the hen,
We shall have weather thick and thin
But if the hen moult before the cock,
We shall have weather as hard as a block.

Fulmar.

Pennant in his Zoology informs us that if the ful-

mar (Procellaria glacialis) seek land, it is a sign to the inhabitants of St Kilda that the west wind is far off.

Geese.

The quaint author of 'A strange Metamorphosis of Man transformed into a Wildernesse, deciphered in Characters,' 1634, 12mo, Lond., speaking of the goose, says—

"She is no witch, or astrologer, to divine by the starres, but yet hath a shrewd guesse of rainie weather, being as good as an almanack to some that believe in her."

"The offspring or alliance of the Capitolian guard, when they do make a gaggling in the air more than usual, or seem to fight, being over-greedy at their meat, expect then cold and winterly weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 132.

Wenn die Gänse auf einem Fusse stehen, giebt's Regen.

Guinea-fowl.

This bird is called the "comeback" in Norfolk, and regarded as the invoker of rain. It often continues clamorous throughout the whole of rainy days.

Gulls.

Sea-gull, sea-gull, sit on the sand,
It's never good weather while you're on the land.
—*Scotland.*

"In Forfarshire, when sea-gulls appear in the fields, a storm from the south-east generally

follows; and when the storm begins to abate, they fly back to the shore."—Sir J. Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*, iii. 478.

"During the whole year, the sea-gulls, commonly called in this parish (Holywood, Dumfriesshire) sea-maws, occasionally come from the Solway Frith to this part of the country: their arrival seldom fails of being followed by a high wind and heavy rain from the south-west within twenty-four hours; and they return to the Frith again as soon as the storm begins to abate."—*Ibid.*, i. 32.

When sea-gulls fly out early and far to seaward, moderate winds and fair weather may be expected.

"Sea-maws, early in the morning making a gaggling more than ordinary, foretoken stormy and blustering weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 134.

Heron.

When the heron flies low, the air is gross and thickening into showers.

"Herons in the evening flying up and down, as if doubtful where to rest, presages some evill approaching weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 133.

Wenn der Fischreiber das Wasser aufpflügt, holt er Wasser.

Jackdaw.

When three daws are seen on St Peter's vane together,
Then we're sure to have bad weather.—*Norwich.*

"Jackdaws, if they come late home from foraging, presages some cold or ill weather neer at hand, and likewise when they are seen much alone." —*Wilsford*, p. 133.

Kingfisher.

In Wild's 'Iter Boreale' we read:

"The peaceful kingfishers are met together
About the decks, and prophesie calm weather."

See also on December 14.

Sir Thomas Browne, in his 'Vulgar Errors,' book iii. chap. 10, declares—

"That a kingfisher, hanged by the bill, showeth us what quarter the wind is, by an occult and secret propriety, converting the breast to that point of the horizon from whence the blow, is a received opinion, and very strange—introducing natural weathercocks, and extending magnetical positions as far as animal natures; a conceit supported chiefly by present practice, yet not made out by reason or experience."

Kites.

If kites fly high, fair weather is at hand.

Larks.

If larks fly high and sing long, expect fine weather.

So the Germans say,

Wenn die Lerche hoch fliegt und lange hoch oben singt, so verkundigt sie schönes Wetter.

Magpies.

Sir Humphry Davy in 'Salmonia' says that—

"For anglers in spring it is always unlucky to see single magpies; but two may always be regarded

as a favourable omen: and the reason is, that in cold and stormy weather one magpie alone leaves the nest in search of food, the other remaining sitting upon the eggs or the young ones; but when two go out together, it is only when the weather is mild and warm, and favourable for fishing."

Cant les agassos faou bas liour niou,
Trouno soubén pendén lestiou—*Tarn:*
i.e., Quand les pies font bas leur nid,
Il tonne souvent pendant l'été.

Migratory Birds.

Siehst du fremde Wandervögel
So wird's kalt nach alter Regel.

When great abundance of winter migratory birds, and particularly fieldfares, arrive early, they usually forebode a hard winter: and the same prognostic of severe weather is to be inferred from the early or numerous migration of wild geese, wild ducks, and other winter fowls.

Marsh Harriers.

It is said in Wiltshire that the marsh harriers or dunpickles (Circus rufus) alight in great numbers on the downs before rain.

Owls.

If owls scream during bad weather, there will be a change.

So the Italians say,

Quand la sciguèta cria
El temp brüt el scapa via.

And the French,
Quand les chouettes chantent le soir, signe de beau temps.

"Owls whooping after sunset, and in the night, foreshows a fair day to ensue; but if she names herself in French (Huette), expect then fickle and inconstant weather, but most usually rain."—*Wilsford*, p. 134.

When owls whoop much at night, expect fair weather.—*Sussex*.

Peacock.

When the peacock loudly bawls,
Soon we'll have both rain and squalls.

If peacocks cry in the night, there is rain to fall.

Petrel.

The stormy petrel presages bad weather, and gives sailors notice of the approach of a tempest, by collecting under the sterns of the ships.

Pigeons.

If pigeons return home slowly, the weather will be wet.

Wenn die Tauben baden, bedeutet's Regen.

Ptarmigan.

The frequently repeated cry of the ptarmigan low down on the mountains during frost and snow, indicates more snow and continued cold.—*Scotland.*

Quail.

Plus la caille carcaille,
Plus chère est la semaille.—*Ille et Vilaine.*

Autant de fois chante la caille à son retour,
Autant de francs vaudra la mesure de blé.—*Nièvre.*

Raven.

If ravens croak three or four times and flap their wings, fine weather is expected.

The Poles say,

If the raven croaks expect rain.

In Scotland it is believed that if the raven cries first in the morning, it will be a good day; if the rook, the reverse; hence the proverb:—

The corbie said unto the craw,
"Johnnie, fling your plaid awa':"
The craw says unto the corbie,
"Johnnie, fling your plaid about ye."

Robins.

If robins are seen near houses it is a sign of rain.

The familiar habits of the redbreast have occasioned it to be distinguished by a peculiar name in many countries: about Bornholm it is called Tomi Liden; in Norway, Peter Ronsmad; in Germany, Thomas Gierdet; and with us Robin Redbreast or Ruddock.

Rooks.

Corvus aquat.—*Erasmus.*

When rooks seem to drop in their flight, as if pierced by a shot, it is considered to foretell rain.

The low flight of rooks indicates rain. If they feed busily, and hurry over the ground in one direction, and in a compact body, a storm will soon follow. When they sit in rows on dykes and palings, wind is looked for; when going home to roost, if they fly high, the next day will be fair, and *vice versâ*. In autumn and winter, if after feeding in the morning they return to the rookery and hang about it, rain is to be expected.—*Scotland.*

Quand l'agraule passe bas,
Debat l'ale porte lou glas :
Quand passe haut,
Porte lou quant—*Gironde:*
i.e., Quand le corbeau passe bas,
Sous l'aile il porte la glace :
Quand il passe haut,
Il porte la chaleur.

When rooks fly sporting high in air,
It shows that windy storms are near.

If rooks stay at home, or return in the middle of the day, it will rain; if they go far abroad, it will be fine.—*Devonshire.*

Snipes.

The drumming of the snipe in the air indicates dry weather and frost at night to the shepherds of Garrow.—*Scotland.*

Sparrows.

If sparrows chirp a great deal, wet weather will ensue.

Starlings.

If starlings and crows congregate together in large numbers, expect rain.

Swallows.

If swallows touch the water as they fly, rain approaches.

Identical are the French, Italian, and German sayings, viz.,

Quind chés arondelles volent à tierre,
Adui la poussière.—*Nord.*

Le rundàne che ula a bass
L'è segnal d'ün gran slaass.

Wenn die Schwalben niedrig fliegen, und hin und her auf der Oberfläche der Erde und des Wassers hinfahren, so hat man Regen oder Gewitter zu erwarten.

So Gay, in his first Pastoral, writes,

"When swallows fleet soar high and sport in air,
He told us that the welkin would be clear."

Swans.

In Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland, x. 14, parish of Wick, co. Caithness, the minister, speaking of the swans which periodically visit the lochs there, says,

"They are remarkable prognosticators of the weather, and much relied on as such by the farmer."

If the swan flies against the wind, it is a certain in-

dication of a hurricane within twenty-four hours, generally within twelve.—*Athenæum*, iii. 229.

When the white swan visits the Orkneys, expect a severe winter.

The Russians say,
"The swan brings snow on her beak."

Thrush.

Le chant de la grive annonce la neige.—*Ariège.*

Quand on entend la grive chanter,
Cherche la maison pour t'abriter,
Ou du bois pour te chauffer.—*Dordogne.*

The missel-thrush or storm-cock sings loud and long before rain.

Titmouse.

"The titmouse foretells cold, if crying Pincher."—*Wilsford*, p. 132.

Wild Geese.

In Morayshire, they say,
Wild geese, wild geese, ganging to the sea,
Good weather it will be.
Wild geese, wild geese, ganging to the hill,
The weather it will spill.

Woodpecker.

"The woodpecker's cry denotes wet."—*Wilsford.*

The dirt-bird sings, and we shall have rain.

Lorsque le pivert crie
Il annonce la pluie.—*Eure et Loire.*

Co'l pigozzo per aria'l cria,
La borasca ne vien via (*i.e.*, is coming on us).—*Venetia.*

Quand el picozz picozza (taps)
O che l'è vent, o che l'è gozza (rain).—*Milan.*

Wren.

"Manx herring-fishers dare not go to sea without one of these birds taken dead with them, for fear of storms."—*Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopædia*, p. 157.

PROGNOSTICS FROM FISH.

Fishes rise more than usual at the approach of a storm. In some parts of England they are said not to bite so well before rain.

Quand i pès i noda a gala (swim at the top of the water),
L'e che l'aqua che no fala.—*Bergamo.*

Carp.

Quando nel fosso salta la scardola, piova.
Corresponding with the previous proverb.—*Venice.*

Cockles.

"Cockles and most shell-fish are observed against a tempest to have gravil sticking hard unto their shells, as a providence of nature to stay or poise themselves, and to help weigh them down, if raised from the bottome by the surges."—*Wilsford*, p. 136.

Cuttles.

"Cuttles with their many legs swimming on the top of the water, and striving to be above the waves, do presage a storm, offended with the meteor, and the disturbed waters in the deep."—*Wilsford*, p. 135.

Dolphins.

"Dolphines in fair and calm weather persuing one another, as one of their waterish pastimes, foreshows wind, and from that part whence they fetch their frisks; but if they play thus when the seas are rough and troubled, it is a sign of fair and calm weather to ensue."—*Wilsford*, p. 135.

Pike.

Ist die Hechtsleber, nach dem Gallenbläschen zu, breit, nach vorn zu aber spitzig, so gibt es einen harten langen Winter.—*Rhine.*

Porpoises.

When porpoises swim to windward, foul weather will ensue within twelve hours.

"Porpoises, or Sea-Hogs, when observed to sport, and chase one another about ships, expect then some stormy weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 135.

In 'Canterbury Guests, or a Bargain Broken,' a comedy, by Ravenscroft, 4to, p. 24, we read:

"My heart begins to leap, and play like a porpice before a storm."

Sea-Urchins.

"Sea-urchins thrusting themselves into the mud,

or striving to cover their bodies with sand, foreshows a storm; for the windy exhalations disturb the lowest waters first, in the bottome of the sea, which makes the other fishes rise and trust in their swimming; and the Urchin unapt for that, and fearing to be hurried away with the tumultuous waves, gets neer the shore, and there stays itself by creeping into the earth."—*Wilsford*, p. 136.

Trout.

Wenn die Forellen früh laichen, gibt es viel Schnee.

PROGNOSTICS FROM REPTILES, ETC.

Frogs.

Quando le rane canta, el tempo se cambia.—*Venetia.*

Quand les grenouilles chantent le soir, signe de beau temps.

When frogs croak much it is a sign of rain.

Wenn die Laubfrösche knarren
Magst du auf Regen harren.

Co canta la rana
Piova e brentana.—*Venetia.*

Quand les grenouilles coassent
Point de gelées ne menacent.—*Haute Saône.*

If frogs make a noise in the time of cold rain, warm dry weather will follow.

If frogs, instead of yellow, appear russet-green, it will presently rain.

When frogs spawn in the middle of the water it is a sign of drought; and when at the side, it foretells a wet summer.—*Scotland.*

So the Germans say,

Liegt der Froschlaich im Frühjahr im tiefen Wasser, so folgt ein trockener warmer Sommer: liegt er aber am Ufer oder nur wenig im Wasser, so kommt ein nasser Sommer.

Glow-worm.

When the glow-worm lights her lamp,
The air is always damp.

If glow-worms shine much, it will rain:

But, on the contrary,

Wenn die Johannis-würmchen ungewöhnlich leuchten und glänzen, kann man sicher auf schönes Wetter rechnen. Lassen siesich bis zum Johannistage nicht sehen, so ist das ein Zeichen kalter unfreundlicher Witterung.

Leech.

A leech confined in a bottle of water is always agitated when a change of weather is about to take place. Before high winds it moves about with much celerity. Previous to slight rain or snow it creeps to the top of the bottle, but soon sinks; but, if the rain or wind is likely to be of long duration, the leech remains a longer time at the surface. If thunder approaches, the leech

starts about in an agitated and convulsive manner.

Snails.

When black snails cross your path,
Black clouds much moisture hath.

Wenn die Gartenschnecken, Schleimschnecken häufig auf den Beeten und in den Wegen sich finden, so deutet es auf Gewitterregen.

Wenn die Schnecke ein grünes Blatt mitführt,
Es gewiss gutes Wetter wird:
Beladet sie sich mit Grund,
Thut sie starken Regen kund.—*Eifel.*

Snailie, snailie, shoot out your horn,
And tell us if it will be a bonny day the morn.

Snakes.

Rain is foretold by the appearance and activity of snakes.

Toads.

If toads come out of their holes in great numbers, rain will fall soon.

Saute crapaud,
Nous aurons de l'eau.—*Haute Loire.*

Quand che canta el sciat (toad)
El temp vöi fa de mat—*Milan:*
i.e., The croaking of toads is a sign of rain.

Worms.

If many earth-worms appear, it presages rain.

PROGNOSTICS FROM INSECTS, ETC.

Ants.

"The commonwealth of emmets, when busied with their eggs, and in ordering their state affairs at home, it presages a storm at hand, or some foul weather; but when Nature seems to stupifie their little bodies, and disposes them to rest, causing them to withdraw into their caverns, least their industry should engage them by the inconveniency of the season, expect then some foul and winterly weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 131.

Wenn die Ameisen sich verkriechen
Werden wir Regen kriegen.—*Palatinate.*

Le formighe in processiù
Le promèt ün aquariù.—*Bergamo.*

Bees.

When many bees enter the hive and none leave it, rain is near.

If bees stay at home,
Rain will soon come:
If they fly away,
Fine will be the day.

And so in Georgic iv. 191-194, we find the following lines:

"Nec vero a stabulis pluviâ impendente recedunt
Longuis, aut credunt coelo adventantibus euris;
Sed circum tutæ sub mœnibus urbis aquantur,
Excursusque breves tentant."

A bee was never caught in a shower.

A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay:
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon:
A swarm in July
Is not worth a fly.

The Germans say,

Ein Bienenschwarm im Mai
Ist werth ein Fuder Heu:
Aber ein Schwarm im Juni
Der lohnet kaum die Muhe.

Beetles.

Before rain beetles are more troublesome than usual.

The clock-beetle, which flies about in the summer evenings in a circular direction, with a loud buzzing noise, is said to foretell a fine day. It was consecrated by the Egyptians to the sun.

A long-bodied beetle is called in Bedfordshire the rain-beetle, on account of its always appearing before rain.

Crickets.

When crickets chirp unusually, rain is expected.

In White's 'Selborne,' that writer, speaking of crickets, says,

"They are the housewife's barometer, foretelling her when it will rain."

Flies.

If flies cling much to the ceilings, or disappear, rain may be expected.

"Flies in the spring or summer season," says Wilsford, "if they grow busier or blinder than at other times, or that they are observed to shroud themselves in warm places, expect then quickly for to follow, either hail, cold storms of rain, or very much wet weather; and if those little creatures are noted early in autumn to repair unto their winter quarters, it presages frosty mornings, cold storms, with the approach of hoary winter. Atoms, or little flies, swarming together and sporting themselves in the sunbeams, is a good omen of fair weather."

Gnats:

If gnats play up and down, it is a sign of heat; but if in the shade, it presages mild showers: if they collect in the evening before sunset and form a vortex or column, fine weather will follow; while if they sting much, it is held to be an unfailing indication of rain.

Wenn die Mücken tanzen, giebt's schön Wetter.—*Tyrol.*

Quand se sent a mord i mosch
I giornat se mèten fosch—*Milan:*
i.e., Gnats biting much indicate a change in the weather.

Ladybird.

Käferl', Käferl', Käferl',

Flieg nach Mariabrunn,
Und bring uns ä schone Sun.—*Vienna.*

With reference to this children's rhyme, Chambers says,

"Mariabrunn is a place about twelve English miles from the Austrian capital, with a miracle-working image of the Virgin, who often sends good weather to the merry Viennese. The ladybird is always connected with fine weather in Germany."—*Popular Rhymes*, p. 202.

Spiders.

Wenn grosse Spinnen herumkriechen, kommt binnen drei Tagen Regen.—*Tyrol.*

"Spiders creep out of their holes and narrow receptacles against wind or rain; Minerva having made them sensible of an approaching storm."—*Wilsford*, p. 131.

If garden spiders forsake their cobwebs, rain is at hand.

Quando i ragni destende la lissia, bon tempo.—*Venetia.*

When you see gossamer flying,
Be sure the air is drying.

"Multytute of spynners is token of moche reyne."—*Bartolomæus, De proprietatibus rerum:* Lib. xviii., fol. 314.

Wasps.

"Wasps and hornets biting more eagerly than they use to do, is a sign of rainy weather."—*Wilsford*, p. 135.

Larva of Cicada.

"It is easy to foretell what sort of summer it would be by the position in which the larva of Cicada (Aphrophora) spumaria was found to lie in the froth (cuckoo-spit) in which it is enveloped. If the insect lay with its head upwards, it infallibly denoted a dry summer: if downwards, a wet one."

PROGNOSTICS FROM TREES, PLANTS, ETC.

Bramble.

Lorsque la ronce traverse le chemin (*i.e.*, when its luxuriant growth has been caused by rains), cela annonce la misère.—*Lot et Garonne.*

When the bramble blossoms early in June, an early harvest is expected.

Broom.

"The broom," says Wilsford, p. 144, "having plenty of blossoms, is a sign of a fruitful year of corn."

Lorsque le genêt fleurit bien,
Il en est de même au sarrasin.—*Vosges.*

Chickweed.

Chickweed expands its leaves boldly and fully when fine weather is to follow; but if it should shut up, then the traveller is to put on his great-coat.

Le mouron est le baromêtre du pauvre.—*Moselle.*

Clover.

Clover contracts its leaves at the approach of a storm.

"Trefoile or Clavergrasse against stormy and tempestuous weather will seem rough, and the leaves of it stare and rise up, as if it were afraid of an assault."—*Wilsford*, p. 136.

Coltsfoot.

Coles, in his Introduction to the Knowledge of Plants, p. 38, says,

"If the down flyeth off colt's foot, dandelyon, and thistles, when there is no winde, it is a signe of rain."

Convolvulus.

The convolvulus folds up its petals at the approach of rain.

Dandelion.

When the down of the dandelion contracts, it is a sign of rain.

Fern.

When the fern is as high as a ladle,
You may sleep as long as you are able:
When the fern begins to look red,
Then milk is good with brown bread.

"It is observed," says Ray, "by good housewives, that milk is thicker in the autumn than in the summer, notwithstanding the grass must be more hearty, the juice of it being better concocted by

the heat of the sun in summer-time. I conceive the reason to be, because the cattle drink water abundantly by reason of their heat in summer, which doth much dilute their milk."

Fir-Cones.

"Pine-apples hanging up in the house where they freely may enjoy the air, will close themselves against wet and cold weather, and open against hot and dry times."—*Wilsford.*

Hawthorn.

If many hawthorn-blossoms are seen, expect a severe winter.

Quand le buisson blanc entre en fleurs,
Crains toujours quelques fraîcheurs.—*Dordogne.*

Marigold.

If the marigold do not open its petals by seven in the morning, it will rain or thunder that day. It also closes before a storm.

So also in France they say the same of this plant, which they call "le souci pluvial."

Mushroom.

Quand en été on voit des champignons sur le fumier c'est signe de pluie.—*Cher.*

Oak.

If the oak bear many acorns it foreshows a long and hard winter.

Viel Eicheln lassen strengen Winter erwarten.

Oak and Ash.

If the oak's before the ash,
Then you'll only get a splash:
If the ash's before the oak,
Then you may expect a soak.

Onion.

Onion's skin
Very thin,
Mild winter's coming in:
Onion's skin thick and rough,
Coming winter cold and rough.

So the French say,

Quand les oignons ont trois pelures,
Grande froidure.—*Dise.*

Osier.

Si l'osier fleurit
Le raisin mûrit.—*Rhône.*

Pear.

Sitzen die Birnen fest am Stiel,
Bringt der Winter Kälte viel.

Pear and Apple.

Quand la poire passe la pomme,
Garde ton vin, bonhomme:
Quand la pomme passe la poire,
Il fait bon boire.—*Jura.*

Pimpernel.

When this flower closes in the day-time, it is a sign of rain; on which account it is called the countryman's weather-glass.

Roses.

"When Roses flourish in Autumn, it is an evill signe of an insuing plague the year following, or some pestiferous disease: for much heat in this season corrupteth the blood."—*Wilsford*, p. 144.

But the Germans say,

Späte Rosen im Garten deuten auf schönen Herbst und gelinden Winter.

Sea-weed.

A piece of kelp or sea-weed hung up will become damp previous to rain.

Sensitive Plants.

Sensitive plants contract their leaves at the approach of rain.

Siberian Sow-Thistle.

If the flowers keep open all night the weather will be wet next day.

Teazle.

"Tezils, or Fuller's Thistle, being gathered and hanged up in the house, where the air may come freely to it, upon the alteration of cold and windy weather will grow smoother, and against rain will close up his prickles."—*Wilsford*, p. 136, 137.

Walnuts, etc.

"Great store of walnuts and almonds presage a plentiful year of corn, especially filberds."—*Wilsford*, p. 144.

So Virgil, Georg. I. 187-192,

Contemplator item, quum se nux plurima silvis
Induet in florem et ramos curvabit olentes:

Si superant fetus, pariter frumenta sequentur,
Magnaque cum magno veniet tritura calore:
At si luxuriâ foliorum exuberat umbra,
Nequidquam pingues palea teret area culmos.

Wood-Sorrel.

A species of wood-sorrel contracts its leaves at the approach of rain.

Chaff, Leaves, etc.

Chaff, leaves, thistle-down, or such light things whisking about and turning round, foreshews tempestuous winds.—*Shepherd's Kalendar.*

THE FOLLOWING LINES NOTICE THE PLANTS WHICH ARE IN FLOWER ON THE VARIOUS FESTIVALS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR.

February 2.

The Snowdrop, in purest white arraie,
First rears her head on Candlemas Daie;

February 14.

While the crocus hastens to the shrine
Of Primrose love on St Valentine.

March 25.

Then comes the Daffodil beside
Our Ladies' Smock at our Ladye Tyde;

April 23.

Againste St George, when blue is worn,
The blue Harebells the fields adorn;

May 3.
While on the day of the Holy Cross,
The Crowfoot gilds the flowerie grasse.

June 11.
When St Barnaby bright smiles night and day,
Poor Ragged Robin blooms in the hay.

June 24.
The scarlet Lychnis, the garden's pride,
Flames at St John the Baptist's tyde.

July 15.
Against St Swithin's hastie showres,
The Lily white reigns queen of the flowers;

July 20.
And Poppies a sanguine mantle spread,
For the blood of the Dragon St Margaret shed.

July 22.
Then under the wanton Rose, agen,
That blushes for penitent Magdalen.

August 1.
Till Lammas Day called August's Wheel,
When the long Corn stinks of Camomile.

August 15.
When Mary left us here below,
The Virgin's Bower begins to blow;

August 24.
And yet anon the full Sunflower blew,
And became a Star for Bartholomew.

September 14.

The Passion-Flower long has blowed
To betoken us signs of the Holy Rood.

September 29.

The Michaelmas Daisy, amonge dead Weeds,
Blooms for St Michael's valorous deeds,

October 28.

And seems the last of flowers that stood
Till the Feast of St Simon and St Jude,

November 1.

Save Mushrooms and the Fungus race,
That grow as All-hallow-tide takes place.

November 25.

Soon the evergreen Laurel alone is seen,
When Catherine crowns all learned men.

December 25.

Then Ivy and Holy Berries are seen,
And Yule Clog and Wassail come round again.—
Anthol. Austr. et Bor.

PROGNOSTICS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS OBJECTS, ETC.

Chairs.

When chairs and tables creak it will rain.

Coals.

If the coals seem hotter than usual, or if the flame is more agitated, though the weather be calm at the

time, it indicates wind: but when the flame burns steady, and proceeds straight upwards, it is a sign of fine weather.

The Milanese say,

Brasch lüsent
Segnal de vent.

i.e., If the coals burn brightly, it is a sign of wind.

Corns.

If corns are more painful than usual, rain will fall shortly.

In Gay's first Pastoral are the lines,

"He first that useful secret did explain,
Why pricking corns foretold the gathering rain."

Ditches.

The smell of ditches and drains is more offensive before rain.

So the Italian proverb,

Odor in strada,
Vol piöv in la zurnada.

"Ungrateful odours common shores diffuse,—

. . . . . .

Ere the tiles rattle with the smoking shower."—
Gay's Trivia.

Doors.

Doors and windows are hard to shut in damp weather.

Dust.

Dust rising in dry weather is a sign of approaching change.

If dust whirl round in eddies when being blown about by the wind, it is a sign of rain.

The Germans say,

Wenn der Staub sich lang' in der Luft aufhält,
Gewisslich auch bald Regen fällt.

Fungus.

During damp and windy weather, it often happens that we find a foul excrescence or fungus about the wicks of candles or lamps. Virgil represents the women at work by lamp-light, as foreknowing the coming weather by these signs.—*Georg.* I. 390, 91, 92.

So the Italian proverb,

Quand la löm l'empasta'l funs
Spèta l'aqua poch de luns.—*Bergamo.*

And the following is from Roberti Keuchenii Crepundia, p. 211:

"Aeris humenti crepitans uligine fungus
Si quid habet flammis ominis, auster erit."

Lamp.

If the flame of a lamp crackles or flares, it indicates rainy weather.

Rheumatism.

When rheumatic people complain of more than ordinary pain in their joints, it will rain.

Thus also Butler, in his Hudibras, p. iii. c. ii. l. 405:

"As old sinners have all points
O' th' compass in their bones and joints—
Can by their pangs and aches find
All turns and changes of the wind,

And, better than by Napier's bones,
Feel in their own the age of moons."

Salt.

Salt increases in weight before a shower.

Sea.

The murmuring noise of the waves of the sea, their foaming, and green and black colour, announce a storm.

In the Cambrian Register, 1796, p. 430, we read:

"It cannot be denied that the Welsh have much superstition amongst them, though it is wearing off very fast. But the instance adduced here (by the Gleaner), that of their predicting a storm by the roaring of the sea, is a curious kind of proof of their superstition."

Signboards.

"But when the swinging sign your ears offend
With creaking noise, then rainy floods impend:
Soon shall the kennels swell with rapid streams."—
Trivia.

Smoke.

If, during calm, smoke does not ascend readily, expect rain.

So the Germans say,

Wenn der Rauch nicht aus dem Schornstein will,
So ist vorhanden Regens viel.

Soot.

If soot falls down the chimney, rain will come.

Sounds.

Sounds are heard with unusual clearness before a storm.

So the Italian proverb,

Campan che se sent,
O aqua o vent.

Strings.

Strings of catgut or whipcord untwist and become longer during a damp state of the air.

Toothache.

The Milanese say,

Quad el dent el fa de mat
Se l'èsüt vör lass vagnat.

The Florentines,

Quando il tempo è molle,
Il dente si fa folle.

Walls.

When walls are more than usually damp, rain is expected.

So Gay, in his Trivia,

"Church monuments foretell the changing air;
Then Niobe dissolves into a tear,
And sweats with secret grief; you'll hear the sounds
Of whistling winds, ere kennels break their bounds."

"So lookes he like a marble toward rayne."—*Bishop Hall's Virgidemiarum*, Book vi. Sat. 1.

GENERAL PROGNOSTICS.

Winds.

"The hollow winds begin to blow,

Clouds, Barometer.

The clouds look black, the glass is low;

Soot, Dogs.

The soot falls down, the spaniels sleep,

Spiders.

And spiders from their cobwebs peep:

Sun.

Last night the sun went pale to bed,

Moon.

The moon in haloes hid her head;
The boding shepherd heaves a sigh,

Rainbow.

For see! a rainbow spans the sky:

Walls, Ditches.

The walls are damp, the ditches smell,

Pimpernel.

Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel:

Chairs and Tables.

Hark how the chairs and tables crack!

Joints.

Old Betty's joints are on the rack:

Ducks.

Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry,

Hills.

The distant hills are looking nigh:

Swine.

How restless are the snorting swine!

Flies.

The busy flies disturb the kine:

Swallow.

Low o'er the grass the swallow wings;

Cricket.

The cricket, too, how sharp he sings:

Cat.

Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaws:

Fish.

Through the clear stream the fishes rise,
And nimbly catch the incautious flies:

Glowworm.

The glowworms, numerous and bright,
Illumed the dewy dell last night:

Toad.

At dusk the squalid toad was seen
Hopping and crawling o'er the green:

Dust.

The whirling dust the wind obeys,
And in the rapid eddy plays:

Frog.

The frog has changed his yellow vest,
And in a russet coat is dressed:

Air.

Though June, the air is cold and still;

Blackbird.

The mellow blackbird's voice is shrill:

Dog.

My dog, so altered in his taste,
Quits mutton-bones on grass to feast;

Rooks.

And see yon rooks, how odd their flight!
They imitate the gliding kite,
And seem precipitate to fall,
As if they felt the piercing ball—
'Twill surely rain—I see with sorrow
Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow."

—Dr JENNER.

Wind.

" For ere the rising winds begin to roar,

Sea.

The working seas advance to wash the shore;

Trees.

Soft whispers run along the leafy woods,

Mountains.

And mountains whistle to the murmuring floods.

Waves.

E'en then the doubtful billows scarce abstain
From the tossed vessel on the troubled main;

Cormorants.

When crying cormorants forsake the sea,
And, stretching to the covert, wing their way;

Coots.

When sportful coots run skimming o'er the strand;

Herons.

When watchful herons leave their watery strand,
And mounting upwards with erected flight,
Gain on the skies, and soar above the sight:

Meteors.

And oft, before tempestuous winds arise,
The seeming stars fall headlong from the skies,
And shooting through the darkness gild the night
With sweeping glories, and long trains of light;

Chaff.

And chaff with eddy winds is whirled around,

Leaves.

And dancing leaves are lifted from the ground,

Feathers.

And floating feathers on the waters play:

Thunder.

But when the winged thunder takes his way
From the cold north, and east and west engage,
And at their frontiers meet with equal rage,
The clouds are crushed; a glut of gathered rain
The hollow ditches fills, and floats the plain;
And sailors furl their dripping sheets amain.

Rain.

Wet weather seldom hurts the most unwise;
So plain the signs, such prophets are the skies.

Crane.

The wary crane foresees it first, and sails
Above the storm, and leaves the lowly vales:

Cow.

The cow looks up, and from afar can find
The change of heaven, and snuffs it in the wind:

Swallow.

The swallow skims the river's watery face:

Frogs.

The frogs renew the croaks of their loquacious race:

Ant.

The careful ant her secret cell forsakes,
And drags her eggs along the narrow tracks:

Rainbow.

At either horn the rainbow drinks the flood:

Rooks.

Huge flocks of rising rooks forsake their food,
And crying, seek the shelter of the wood.

Water-fowl.

Besides the several sorts of watery fowls
That swim the seas or haunt the standing pools,

Swans.

The swans that sail along the silvery flood,
And dive with stretching necks to search their food,
Then lave their backs with sprinkling dews in vain,
And stem the stream to meet the promised rain.

Crow.

The crow with clamorous cries the shower demands,
And single stalks along the desert sands.

Lamps.

The nightly virgin while her wheel she plies,
Foresees the storm impending in the skies,
When sparkling lamps their spluttering light advance,
And in their sockets oily bubbles dance.

Fine Weather.

Then after showers it is easy to descry
Returning suns, and a serener sky:

Stars.

The stars shine smarter; and the moon adorns,

Moon.

As with unborrowed beams, her sharpened horns.

Gossamer.

The filmy gossamer now flits no more,

Halcyons.

Nor halycons bask on the short sunny shore;

Swine.

Their litter is not tossed by sows unclean;

Mist.

But a blue droughty mist descends upon the plain;

Owls.

And owls that mark the setting sun declare
A starlight evening and a morning fair.

Hawk and Lark.

Towering aloft, avenging Nisus flies,
While dared below the guilty Scylla lies;
Wherever frightened Scylla flies away,
Swift Nisus follows and pursues his prey;

Where injured Nisus takes his airy course
Then trembling Scylla flies and shuns his force.
This punishment pursues the unhappy maid,
And thus the purple hair is dearly paid.

Ravens.

Then thrice the ravens rend the liquid air,
And croaking notes proclaim the settled fair.
Then round their airy palaces they fly
To greet the sun; and seized with secret joy,
When storms are overblown, with food repair
To their forsaken nests and callow care.
Not that I think their breasts with heavenly souls
Inspired, as man who destiny controls,
But with the changeful temper of the skies,
As rains condense and sunshine rarifies,
So turn the species in their altered minds:
Composed by calms and discomposed by winds.

Birds.

From hence proceeds the birds' harmonious voice;

Cows and Lambs.

From hence the cows exult, and frisking lambs rejoice."

—*Georg. I.* 356-423; *Dryden's Translation.*

THE END.

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